

8 March 2022

Ref: FOI2022/03452

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 15 February 2022, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to enquire about whether Prince Andrew's legal fees and/or his undisclosed settlement fee regarding the Civil Sexual Assault Case involving Ms. Virginia Giuffre involved any money from HMT's Sovereign Grant to the Royal Family or if any other government funded money was used in the case or settlement.”

No public money has been used to pay legal or settlement fees you refer to. Therefore we can confirm that HM Treasury does not hold information within the scope of your request.

It might be helpful if we explain that the principles for managing resources in UK public sector organisations are set out in [Managing Public Money](#), which is published by the Treasury.

It might also be helpful to explain that Her Majesty The Queen receives the Sovereign Grant to fund her official duties as Head of State, and maintain the Occupied Royal Palaces. No member of the Royal Family receives a private income from the Grant or any other public funds.

In return for the Sovereign Grant, The Queen surrenders the revenue from the Crown Estate (which she owns as reigning Monarch) to the government. As a result, over the last ten years, the Crown Estate has returned a total of £2.9 billion to the Exchequer, through the [Consolidated Fund](#), which has been invested in vital public services such as the NHS, transport, schools and defence, which benefit the UK as a whole.

The Sovereign Grant Act 2011 ensures that the Royal Household is fully financially accountable, with its accounts audited by the National Audit Office and laid before Parliament each year. This means that the Royal Household's accounts are held to the same standard of scrutiny and transparency as Government departments. The Sovereign Grant Annual Reports are published and can be found under 'Financial Reports' on the royal.uk website at:

<https://www.royal.uk/media-packs>

We hope you find this information helpful.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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