



Government Legal Department

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[REDACTED]

Ref No: FOI 25_211

15th October 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 21st September 2025 containing your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act", "FOIA")

Request

Please accept this as a new FOI request with a date of 22 September 2025.

A previous FOI request dated 27 August 2025, with your reply dated 10 September 2025 (Ref FOI 25_186) is relevant to this new FOI request.

As per your response dated 10 Sep a new and refined FOI request is raised here:

Taking 6 random claims in total that have been made against the Ministry of Defence for Noise Induced Hearing Loss in the last 3 years: three random claims where the claim was contested through a full contested trial (liability and quantum); and three random claims that settled before trial:

1. How many working hours did GLD staff spend in defending these claims? Please break down the figures per case.
2. How many hours were spent by outside staff (consultants, experts and Counsel etc.) in defending these claims? Please break down the figures per case.
3. What was the cost of GLD of providing staff to defend these 6 claims? Please break down the figures per case. Please provide an approximate cost if GLD are not centrally recording the costs of defending claims on a case by case basis, against Government Departments.
4. What was the cost of outside staff (consultants, experts and Counsel etc.) in defending these claims?

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD confirms that it partially holds information you have requested.

GLD does not act for the Ministry of Defence in the vast majority of Noise Induced Hearing Loss ("NIHL") cases – these are handled by an external law firm on behalf of the Ministry of Defence ("MOD"). GLD does not hold the information which you have requested in relation to those cases which are handled by the external law firm.

In relation to those cases in which GLD has acted for the MOD, we have randomly selected three cases where the claim settled before trial. However, we can only identify one case during the last three years in which GLD acted for the Ministry of Defence in a NIHL claim which went to trial. The information you have requested in relation to these cases is set out below. The numbers below correspond to those set out in your request (as set out above).

Settled Cases

Case 1:

- 1) 39 hours
- 2) Unable to identify external hours spent.
- 3) £4,753 (incl. VAT)
- 4) £739 (incl. VAT)

Case 2:

- 1) 157 hours
- 2) 12 hours
- 3) £15,842 (Inc. VAT)
- 4) £1,152 (Inc. VAT)

Case 3:

- 1) 419 hours
- 2) Counsel: 60 hours counsel, other external hours unable to be identified.
- 3) £46,339 (incl.VAT)
- 4) £23,218 (incl.VAT)

Case which went to trial

- 1) 810 hours
- 2) 190 hours
- 3) £116,237 (incl. VAT)
- 4) £114,242 (incl. VAT)

This case is subject to appeal and some appeal related costs will be included within these figures.

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask GLD for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted to GLD within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ICO.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team

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