



Government Legal Department

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[REDACTED]

Ref No: FOI 25_254

31/12/2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28th November 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

1. In the 2024/25 financial year how many legal cases were settled by your department where you represented (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice where you were ordered to pay the costs of the party involved in the action against the Government department.
2. In relation to Q.1 what were the total cost to your Department of settling these legal costs in connection with the cases for (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice.
3. In relation to Q.1 what were the total costs to your Department of settling the legal costs in relation to the Government's Legal Department costs for the (a) Home Office and (b) Ministry of Justice.
4. Which case within Q.2 had the biggest legal bill in relation to (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice. Please state the costs of the case and the nature of the case, the court reference number and highest hourly rate paid within that claim. Please provide this response in the same format as a previous Fol on the same subject but for a previous financial year [Ref: RM/12 3/15]

Response

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

1. In the 2024/25 financial year how many legal cases were settled by your department where you represented (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice where you were ordered to pay the costs of the party involved in the action against the Government department.

<p>Home Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Costs Cases settled within 2024/2025, not necessarily where the damages claim was settled in 2024/2025</i> 	<p><u>TOTAL = 1846 cases</u></p>
<p>MoJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Costs Cases settled within 2024/2025, not necessarily where the damages claim was settled in 2024/2025</i> 	<p><u>TOTAL = 237 cases</u></p>

2. In relation to Q.1 what were the total cost to your Department of settling these legal costs in connection with the cases for (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice.

<p>Home Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes VAT (where applicable) ▪ Does not include any client costs involved with dealing with this matter 	<p><u>TOTAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimed = £45,507,806.24 • Settled & Paid = £31,106,668.05
<p>MOJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes VAT (where applicable) ▪ Does not include any client costs involved with dealing with this matter 	<p><u>TOTAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimed = £12,752,895.15 • Settled & Paid = £9,265,528.43

3. In relation to Q.1 what were the total costs to your Department of settling the legal costs in relation to the Government's Legal Department costs for the (a) Home Office and (b) Ministry of Justice.

<p>Home Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only GLD costs billed to the client ▪ Includes VAT 	<p><u>TOTAL inc. Disbursements & VAT = £15,149,436.01</u></p>
<p>MOJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only GLD costs billed to the client ▪ Includes VAT 	<p><u>TOTAL inc. Disbursements & VAT = £4,965,524.15</u></p>

4. Which case within Q.2 had the biggest legal bill in relation to (a) the Home Office and (b) the Ministry of Justice. Please state the costs of the case and the nature of the case, the court reference number and highest hourly rate paid within that claim. Please provide this response in the same format as a previous Fol on the same subject but for a previous financial year [Ref: RM/12 3/15]

Highest legal bill in relation to
a. *the Home Office*

Case Name	<i>Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin v The Home Office</i>
Court Reference	<i>UKSC 2022/0135 & QB-2020-002120</i>
Total GLD fees	<i>£237,497.41</i>
Claimants solicitors' fees claimed	<i>Total Claimed – bill of costs including interest and costs of assessment £952,001.60 (HC/CoA bill – £462,664.39; SC bill - £489,337.21)</i>
Claimants Solicitors' fees settled	<i>Total settled - including interest and costs of assessment. £728,000.00 (HC/CoA bill settled £364,000.00 & SC bill settled £364,000.00)</i>
Nature of Case	<p><i>The Appellant was born in Bangladesh and later naturalised as a British citizen. In October 2019, the Commission for Countering Extremism Commission (a non-statutory body expert committee for the Home Office) published report entitled 'Challenging Hateful Extremism'. The Report contained a footnote which suggested the Appellant had links with violence in Dhaka in 1971. The Appellant sued the Secretary of State for the Home Department for libel and infringement of Articles 5, 6 and 10 GDPR. At the preliminary hearing it was held that the Report contained defamatory allegations of fact and personal data. The High Court struck out the Appellant's claim as an abuse of process. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision.</i></p> <p><i>The Appellant challenged the decision of the Court of Appeal in the Supreme Court.</i></p> <p><i>The Supreme Court unanimously allowed Mr Mueen-Uddin's appeal. It held that the order striking out his claim as an abuse of process should be set aside, and that he should be permitted to pursue his claim against the Home Secretary at trial.</i></p> <p><i>The matter was settled by way of an offer to make amends by the Home Office which included both the payment of substantial</i></p>

	<i>damages and a statement of apology read in open court.</i>
Highest Hourly Rate	Claimed - Grade A - £650 per hour; £595 per hour; £425 per hour. Grade D - £200 per hour. Offered – Grade A – £373.00 per hour, Grade D – £139.00 per hour.

b. the Ministry of Justice

Case Name	<i>DXL v MOJ</i>
Court Reference	<i>E02CL727</i>
GLD fees	<i>£256,277.89</i>
Claimant solicitors' fees claimed	Total Claimed – bill of costs including interest and costs of assessment £1,030,167.53
Claimant Solicitor's fees settled	Total Settled – (including interest and assessment costs) £850,000.00
Nature of Case	This was a claim seeking damages for personal injuries sustained and consequential losses and expenses incurred whilst the Claimant was an inmate and under the care of HM Prison.
Highest Hourly Rate	Claimed – Grade A £470 per hour, Grade B £435 per hour, Grade C £310 per hour and Grade D £197 per hour. Offered – Grade A £400 per hour, Grade B £320 per hour, Grade C £280 per hour and Grade D £150 per hour.

Caveats and Assumptions:

- i. The 'biggest legal bill' has been interpreted as the case with the highest amount of charges to the client (includes other side's legal costs and GLD costs).*
- ii. It has been assumed for the purpose of this response that the word 'ordered' in question 1, incorporates all cases where Home Office or MOJ were liable for payment of costs irrespective of whether by judgment, order, consent order, or Part 36 offer.*
- iii. In line with data provided in previous requests, question 2 has been answered on the basis of legal costs paid out to successful parties by the respective Departments, and question 3 on the basis of total GLD costs (including litigation costs) to the Departments. Data regarding costs of the legal costs litigation is not separately collated.*
- iv. The data provided in this response is limited to those claims negotiated and settled by the GLD Costs Team for the financial year 2024/2025. There are a number of costs cases settled under fixed fee fast track rules or cases typically of values under £5000 each year,*

which are settled by the GLD Litigation Lawyers on behalf of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice for which we do not collate data on a central database.

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,

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