



Government Legal Department

Operations
102 Petty France
Westminster
London
SW1H 9GL

+44 (0)20 7210 3000
FOI@governmentlegal.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/gld

[REDACTED]

by email only

Ref No: FOI 26_068

04 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 06 May 2026 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

- The number of litigation cases involving the Department for Education for the following financial years: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- Cost of litigation cases involving the Department for Education for the following financial years: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Response

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

GLD only holds information within the scope of your request where it has been instructed to act on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) in litigation matters.

The figures in the table below represent the total amounts billed by GLD to the Department for Education (DfE) for litigation services. GLD does not hold information on litigation matters involving DfE where it has not been instructed to act. The information provided therefore reflects only those litigation matters on which GLD has been instructed. For further information, you are advised to contact DfE directly.

For ease of reference, values in Column two 'Distinct Count of Case Reference' provide the number of cases per year

Financial Year	Distinct Count of Case reference	Sum of Time and Charges Net	Sum of time and charges VAT	Disbursements Net	Disbursements VAT	Total Billed Inc VAT
2019-2020	209	£927,524.97	£185,504.99	£435,146.56	£87,029.30	£1,635,205.82
2020-2021	184	£926,592.60	£185,318.52	£461,818.94	£92,363.78	£1,666,093.84
2021-2022	209	£982,140.16	£196,428.03	£450,902.61	£90,180.56	£1,719,651.36
2022-2023	258	£1,359,384.78	£271,876.96	£327,411.67	£65,482.32	£2,024,155.73
2023-2024	247	£1,387,996.82	£277,599.36	£319,639.96	£63,927.99	£2,049,164.13
2024-2025	371	£1,904,217.25	£380,843.45	£460,941.93	£92,188.35	£2,838,190.98
2025-2026	389	£1,541,422.60	£308,284.52	£1,097,918.81	£219,583.77	£3,167,209.70
Grand Total		£9,029,279.18	£1,805,855.84	£3,553,780.48	£710,756.07	£15,099,671.57

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
Operations, Government Legal Department
102 Petty France, Westminster
London, SW1H 9GL
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