



Government Legal Department

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Ref No: FOI 25_225

6th November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 October 2025 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Request

I am writing to request information relating to the costs incurred by the Home Office in relation to claims made by people held at Manston asylum centre.

Information about the claims can be found here: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/07/people-held-at-uk-migrant-centre-sue-government-for-human-rights-breach>

"At least 250 people who were detained at [Manston asylum centre](#) during a period when it was dangerously overcrowded and grappling with outbreaks of infectious diseases are suing the government for unlawful detention and other breaches of their rights. They include a woman who had a miscarriage, a child whose age was recorded as five years older than he was, classifying him as an adult, and a teenager who was a victim of torture and trafficking."

The article lists at least two law firms, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], representing people bringing claims.

Please provide me with the following information:

- 1. All legal costs incurred by the Home Office in dealing with claims brought by people who stayed at the asylum centre in Kent, including costs incurred opposing the claims. That includes costs the Home Office was billed by the GLD to cover the costs of its services.*
- 2. If it's held by the GLD - data on all the compensation/damages paid out by the Home Office as a result of these claims.*
- 3. Please break the data requested in question 2 down in as detailed a manner as possible. That includes (1) specifying how much was paid to each individual, if possible; and (2) when they were paid out, by month and year.*
- 4. For the highest 10 claims, please provide me with a description of what the basis of the claims were (i.e., a specific disease; miscarriage while being held; etc.)*

Please treat each request separately. Hence, if questions 3 and 4 are subject to an exemption, only answer 1 and 2.

Response

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

1 – We have estimated that cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, set at £600 for Central Government. This means compliance with your request would require more than 24 hours work, at the flat rate of £25 per hour, per person. This rateable value is applied to determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. These cases are live and costs are being incurred on an ongoing basis. Answering the information would entail looking at each individual file-probably 20-30 minutes per file over around 225 files.

Section 12 of the Act makes clear that a public authority (such as the GLD) is not obliged to comply with if the authority estimates the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'appropriate limit'.

Subject to the Section 16 of the Act, GLD has an obligation to provide advice and assistance to applicants. GLD advises you to resubmit your request at a later date. The claims are at an early stage and is unlikely to be concluded until 2027.

2 – The cases are live therefore final figure is not held.

3 – The cases are live therefore final figure is not held.

4 – The cases are live therefore GLD does not have the requested information.

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted 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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