



Government Legal Department

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Ref No: **FOI 25_244**

24 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 November 2025 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") has processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Request

*Please provide me with a breakdown of the costs incurred by the government in relation to the criminal case against two men accused of spying for China have given conflicting accounts to a parliamentary committee about why the case collapsed.
In September, prosecutors dropped charges against Christopher Cash and Christopher Berry, who had been charged under the Official Secrets Act.*

That includes amounts the relevant government departments involved in the case were billed by the GLD during the proceedings.

Please also include costs incurred by the relevant government departments for legal advice from the GLD.

Please break the costs down in as detailed a manner as possible, outlining where the costs stemmed from, and when.

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that it does not hold the information you have requested.

GLD was not instructed to advise on the case you mention. It was led by Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) The Attorney General's Office (AGO) and Cabinet Office were involved in the response to the dropping of prosecution. You can request information directly from these departments.

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 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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