



Department for Culture, Media and Sport
FoI Response



22 January 2008

CMS Case Number: 108836

Thank you for your request 22nd December 2008 requesting information relating to legal expenditure by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

You have asked for the following information.

1) Total Legal expenditure over all matters

2) Total legal expenditure for dealing with all legal matters apart from compensation cases and other legal disputes /disputes/Tribunal cases/Judicial Review cases/Appeals cases, broken down into:

- I.Total expenditure on external solicitors, Total expenditure on external barristers
- II.Total expenditure on internal lawyers
- III.Total expenditure on all compensation cases and other legal disputes/Tribunal cases/Judicial Review cases/Appeals cases broken down into
- IV.Total number of cases against you (i.e. someone sues you)
- V.Total number of cases pursued by you (i.e. you sue someone)
- VI.Total number of appeal cases (cases against you to overturn a decision you have made)
- VII. Total damages paid Total legal costs paid to opposing solicitors (solicitors who bring the claim on behalf of someone who wins a case/appeal or solicitors who represent someone who is sued by you and the Department loses the case)
- VIII.Total expenditure on external solicitors.
- IX.Total expenditure on external barristers
- X.Total expenditure on internal lawyers dealing with cases.

3. Total expenditure on your internal legal department (if you have one)."

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Under the Act, you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which might apply).

I regret to say that we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested in the format you have requested, but I am please to provide some related information that I hope is helpful.

Background

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSOL) provides legal services to central government departments and other publicly funded bodies in England and Wales. The legal team with overall responsibility for the provision of legal advice to DCMS is thus employed via TSOL, who bill DCMS on an annual basis for services provided. Due to the way that the DCMS accounting system holds and stores information it has not been possible to provide you with the detailed breakdowns you have requested without incurring costs that are greater than the Applicable Fees limit (£600) as set out in the Act.

However the figures at (1) below represent the totality of expenditure on legal services since FY 01/02, and the further breakdowns at (2) and (3) represent subtotals of the incurred costs.

Overall amount - legal advice

1) The following relates to the totality of expenditure on Legal Advice since 2001:

07/08	£2,709,129.86
06/07	£2,962,066.90
05/06	£2,975,750.48
04/05	£2,592,544.17
03/04	£2,790,750.84
02/03	£2,174,269.34
01/02	£1,075,343.06

Breakdowns - main fees and subsequent costings

2) The following are TSOL costs and costs procured by TSOL on behalf of DCMS from other solicitors - they include recoverable VAT:

07/08	£2,706,108.92
06/07	£2,960,655.08
05/06	£2,975,718.48
04/05	£2,592,544.17
03/04	£2,772,457.45
02/03	£2,048,626.18
01/02	£999,383.99

3) The following are legal costs incurred directly by DCMS - they exclude recoverable VAT:

07/08	£3,020.94
06/07	£1,411.82
05/06	£32.00
04/05	£0.00
03/04	£18,293.39
02/03	£125,643.16
01/02	£75,959.07

Other sources of information

You may wish to submit a Freedom of Information request to TSOL in order to obtain the specific information you require using the address below.

The Freedom of Information Officer
Treasury Solicitor's Department
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4TS
foi@tsol.gsi.gov.uk

Appeals

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this letter to:

FOI Central Team,
Public Engagement and Recognition Unit
Department for Culture Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London,
SW1Y 5DH

You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning his investigation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Officer
Freedom of Information Team