

By email to: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Our Ref: F0007597
Date: 16 June 2011

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Application under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 – F0007597

I am writing in response to your request for information received on 19 April 2011 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 summarised as follows:

1. *How much money did your department spend on external consultants in the financial year 2010/11?*
2. *How many days of consultancy did your department pay for in the financial year 2010/11?*
3. *What was the highest daily rate that you paid to an individual consultant in the financial year 2010/11?*
4. *Further to question 3, what was the name of the consultancy firm for whom the highest individual consultant works?*
5. *Further to question 3, what was the name of the consultant?*
6. *How much was your wage bill for permanent staff in the financial year 2010/11?*

DfT consists of a central HQ organisation (DfT(c)) and seven Executive Agencies as follows:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)
Highways Agency (HA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

Your request was sent to the central HQ organisation (DfT(c)), Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The answers below relate to these organisations.

DfT(c)

Question 1: DfT(c) spent £5,535,337.00 on external consultants in the financial year 2010/2011.

Questions 2 to 5: We do not hold this information centrally.

Question 6: The provisional salary bill for permanent staff in DfT(c) for 2010/11 was £121,815,031.32. This is an unaudited figure and may change as the accounts have not yet been completed.

DVLA

Question 1: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) spent £757,098.00 on external consultants in the financial year 2010/11. This is a provisional outturn figure and as such is subject to year-end audit adjustments.

Question 2 to 5: DVLA does not hold the information to answer these three questions.

Question 6: The provisional salary bill for staff in DVLA for 2010/1 was £159,444,000.00. This is an unaudited figure and may change as the accounts have not yet been completed and need to be signed off by the National Audit Office, after which they will be available on the Agency's website at www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/publications.aspx

MCA

Question 1: Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) spent £133,125.00 on external consultants in the financial year 2010/2011.

Questions 2 to 5: MCA do not hold this information centrally.

Question 6: The salary bill for permanent staff in MCA for 2010/11 was £42,225,000.00

The information provided may be published on our website. If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact XXXX (020 7944 XXXX, XXXX XXXX@dft.gsi.gov.uk) in our press office. Please remember to quote the reference number F0007597 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Direct Line: 020 7944 XXXX

Fax: 020 7944 XXXX

GTN No: 3533 XXXX

e-mail: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

www.dft.gov.uk/

www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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