



Department for Transport

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Departmental Security Continuity and
Vetting Team
Department for Transport
Direct Line:
Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

29 November 2012

Dear XXXXXXXXX

Freedom of Information request - F0009422

Thank you for your request for information dated 1 November. In your request you asked the following;

1. The number of external organisations (for instance, private investigators) commissioned to undertake surveillance under the provisions of RIPA for the Organisation and all executive agencies. Please provide disaggregated information if possible.
2. The number of non-public bodies or private investigators commissioned to undertake surveillance for the Organisation and all executive agencies. Please provide disaggregated information if possible.
3. The names of the contractors commissioned to undertake surveillance.
4. Total paid to the contractors commissioned to undertake surveillance.
5. For what reason(s) these external organisations (for instance, private investigators) were commissioned to carry out such surveillance.

You requested that you be provided with answers to each question for the financial years 2010-2011 and 2011 -2012.

I shall answer these questions in turn:

Questions 1 and 2 - Under the provisions of RIPA, two external organisations were commissioned to undertake surveillance in financial year 2010-11, and one external organisation in financial year 2011-12.

Question 3 - The names of the contractors commissioned to undertake surveillance were G4S and Outforce Corporate Investigation Ltd.

Question 4 - In the financial year 2010-11 the total paid to contractors commissioned to undertake surveillance was £32,355. In the financial year 2011-12 a total of £20,720 was paid.

Question 5 – In 2010-11 the surveillance was carried out for two reasons: (a) to protect the public purse against suspected possible fraud and (b) to supplement an executive agency's own fraud investigation capability due to volumes of work and the requirement to procure specialist expertise. In 2011-12 the surveillance was again carried out to supplement an executive agency's own investigation capability.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The Department will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information released to you, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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/01
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 letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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Your right to complain to the 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