



Department of
Justice
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnystrie O tha Laa
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
Records & Information Team
Information Services Division
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Email: FOI@justice-ni.gov.uk

22 November 2024

REFERENCE: FOI/24/130

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 25 October 2024 and detailed below.

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the total cost of conducting legacy inquests, broken down by inquest.”

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold the information that you are looking for, and you have the right to have the information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

We wish to inform you that the Department of Justice is able to provide information on the total cost of conducting legacy inquests (Annex A table), up to month ending 30 September 2024, but does not have the information readily available to provide a breakdown of these costs by inquest.

It has been estimated that to locate, retrieve and extract the information that might make this request possible would involve work which would far exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents an estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours, at a cost of £25.00 per hour, to determine whether the Department holds the information, and then

retrieve and extract that information. It would not be possible to carry out the level of work required to retrieve this information due to the many different criminal justice organisations involved in legacy inquests, each of which incur a variety of costs which cannot be easily attributed to specific legacy inquests (e.g. staffing costs and overheads).

Annex A Table - (detailing total costs of £45.44m up to 30 September 2024. Broken down annually and by relevant justice organisation. Please note, the expenditure shown in 2024/25 has not yet been audited.)

Organisation / Year	Annual Monetary Costs						
	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £m
Non Ringfenced Resource DEL							
NI Courts & Tribunal Services	2.46	2.76	2.79	3.29	4.48	2.43	18.21
Police Service Northern Ireland	2.03	2.47	2.26	2.93	3.52	1.90	15.10
Legal Services Agency	0.80	1.06	0.89	(0.47)	0.62	1.15	4.04
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	0.15	0.19	0.20	0.21	0.19	0.06	1.00
Public Prosecution Service	-	0.12	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.09	0.66
Police Ombudsman Northern Ireland	0.01	0.16	0.29	0.20	0.22	0.19	1.07
Department of Justice	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.04	0.34
Total Non Ringfenced Resource DEL	5.51	6.80	6.64	6.37	9.25	5.85	40.42
Capital DEL							
NI Courts & Tribunal Services	0.49	0.00	-	-	-	-	0.49
Police Service Northern Ireland	0.62	0.38	1.08	0.33	-	-	2.40
Total Capital DEL	1.11	0.38	1.08	0.33	-	-	2.89
Consolidated Fund							
NI Courts & Tribunal Services	0.30	0.37	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.23	2.13
Total Consolidated Fund	0.30	0.37	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.23	2.13
Total Costs	6.91	7.54	8.11	7.11	9.68	6.08	45.44

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review, please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review, you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss this, please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Records & Information Manager