

Reference: 376229

2 February 2017

Julia Snape  
Information requests

[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

### **Freedom of Information: Right to know request**

Thank you for your request for information dated 6 January about legal costs which has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

*Could you tell me how much the regulator spent on legal costs for the financial year 2015/16?*

For the avoidance of doubt, we have taken your request for cost information "for the financial year 2015/16" to mean the audited cost information which Ofcom holds relating to the financial year 2015/16.

The total costs below comprise all of Ofcom's legal costs and includes (amongst other things): the sum of salaries paid to Ofcom's in-house legal team; learning and development costs; travel and subsistence (for example, for meetings held away from the office); and costs incurred in instructing external Counsel in relation to a range of advisory or litigation matters.

Total cost in the financial year 2015/16: £4,890,456.

Ofcom's lawyers work with colleagues to help us take decisions on how best to protect consumers and promote competition in the sectors we regulate. Our legal team also helps to defend our decisions if they are challenged in court.

Our legal costs will normally fluctuate year-on-year, in response to the type and volume of work we undertake, and importantly how companies respond to our decisions.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

## Julia Snape

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

### Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter.** There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Steve Gettings  
The Secretary to the Corporation  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

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