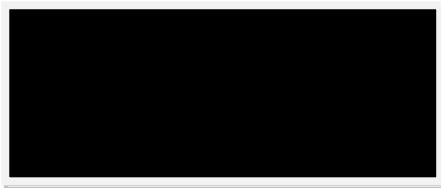


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Our ref: FOI-11/5632

Our E-mail:

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Date: 5 December 2011

Dear 

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2011, in which you requested the following information under the FOI Act:

“Re the trial at Swansea crown court of Graham Mouncher and others, CPS ref:00S10173907

This trial has been underway since early July and may go into 2012.

The 10 defendants were arrested more than six years ago and have been legally represented ever since.

- a) Please tell me the total cost (as far as it is possible) to the Legal Services Commission to date.**
- b) And the expected defence costs of the trial underway.”**

I can confirm that the Legal Services Commission (LSC) holds the information you have requested.

The legal aid defence costs to date for the Lynette White case heard at Swansea Crown Court between July and December 2011 are **£7.59 million**. This figure includes the costs for the two solicitor firms who also represented individuals not involved in this particular trial, but who were part of the same overall case. Due to the way in which information is recorded in our systems the LSC is unable to separate from the firms' overall case costs to date, those costs which are specific to this trial, because the individuals they represented were funded under one case contract.

Please also note that this figure does not represent the final total amount and should not be taken to be a complete picture of the total amount of legal aid granted to the ten defendants in this trial. Once a case has concluded the solicitors submit their bill

to the LSC (usually within three months of the case ending). The bills may be subject to assessment prior to payment and the amount paid may be appealed by the solicitor. The LSC expects further bills to be submitted in this case.

Right to review

As part of our obligations under the FOI Act, the Commission has an independent review process. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Legal Director, Legal Department, Legal Services Commission, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2BS.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have a further right of external appeal which can be made to the Information Commissioner who can be contacted at the following address: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us at the above address. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team
Chief Executive's Office
Legal Services Commission