

TREASURY SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT – SPEND OVER £25,000

HM Treasury requires central government departments to publish by the end of each month details of their payment transactions over £25,000 relating to the previous month. The data we publish is for the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Attorney General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and is taken from our finance system.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department – is the largest provider of legal services across government, working with over 180 government departments and agencies. It also collects bona vacantia on behalf of the Crown. More information about the work of TSol can be found at: www.tsol.gov.uk

The Attorney General's Office – provides legal and strategic policy advice to the Attorney General and the Solicitor General (the Law Officers). More information about the work of the AGO can be found at: www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate – provides assurance to Ministers on the quality of justice and the efficiency and effectiveness of the CPS through an independent inspection programme. More information about the work of HMCPSI can be found at: www.hmcpsi.gov.uk

The data includes a description for each transaction. However to provide additional clarity a glossary of terms for some categories of expenditure is provided below:

Arbitration Fees

Payments relating to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), a means of resolving a dispute without the parties going to court. Mediation is the most common form of ADR and takes place with the help of a mediator, who is a person independent of the parties to the dispute. Professional mediators are sometimes engaged by TSol to do this. They charge TSol for the work they do and this is recharged to clients as a disbursement.

Counsel Fees

Payments relating to barristers who are instructed to represent the government in court or to provide specialised advice. Counsel are generally selected from panels of counsel selected by the Attorney General to ensure that the government always has at its disposal enough people of the right level of experience and quality to act on its behalf. When a government department which uses TSol for its civil litigation services is faced with litigation TSol will discuss with the department the need for representation and will suggest the Counsel best suited to the case. Once agreed Counsel will be appointed to the case and instructed. Counsel charge TSol for the work they do and this is recharged to clients as a disbursement.

Payments made represent gross fee payments. From their fees all self employed barristers have to deduct the costs of running their practices. They also have to make their own provision for holiday, sickness and pension provision. Payments made are inclusive of VAT.

Expert Report

Payments relating to the use of experts in a particular field who offer expert opinion in a particular case for example use of chartered architects which provide forensic analysis services. They charge TSol for the work they do and this is recharged to clients as a disbursement.

Solicitor Agents and Foreign Solicitor Agents

Payments to solicitor firms which provide support services to TSol, to assist our own caseholders. They charge TSol for the work they do and this is recharged to clients as a disbursement.

Court Fees (Consolidated)

Payments to HM Courts and Tribunal Service for court fees relating to four Regional Centres.

LION

This is the Legal Information Online Network – an extranet for use by lawyers within the Government Legal Service. Payments relate to the hosting of this extranet and provision of subscription services.