

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI Reply 448

Thank you for your email sent to the Scotland Office on 6 August 2012.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

I would like to apply under freedom of information laws for details of bonuses paid by the department to staff in each of the last three financial years including

- 1) the total amount paid out in bonuses*
- 2) the total number of bonuses*
- 3) the highest bonus paid*

The Scotland Office has completed its search for information.

All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from other Government bodies, in the majority of cases, the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice and therefore staff may be eligible for bonuses, allowances and other payments additional to basic salary in different ways through their parent bodies' pay arrangements.

The Scotland Office is not responsible for payments made through end of year performance payments or allowances under staffs' parent bodies' pay arrangements and does not hold information centrally on these matters.

The Scotland Office is however able to directly authorise non-consolidated and non-pensionable bonus payments (including small and instantaneous awards, e.g. vouchers) in recognition of special effort, achievement and commitment. The following table shows the cost of such payments:

| <i>Financial year</i> | <i>Total cost of payments (£)</i> | <i>Number of awards</i> | <i>Highest value award</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2009-10 | 2,925 | 15 | £500 |
| 2010-11 | 3,770 | 26 | £500 |
| 2011-12 | £2265 | 11 | £500 |

I hope that you find this information helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

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 contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Scotland Office

[REDACTED]

1 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW