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Our ref: GE/7/12

Date: 04/10/2012

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST  
LEGAL COSTS FOR ADVICE OR LEGAL OPINION RE HOW TO RESPOND TO FOI  
ENQUIRY**

Thank you for your request dated 30 September by email under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

1. Amounts paid to any law firm or in instructing Legal Counsel for advice or legal opinion on how the QLTR should respond to individual requests under FOISA,
2. List of instances where the QLTR's integral legal advisers have been consulted and used for advice on how to respond to individual requests submitted to QLTR under FOISA and any details of any billings/invoices the QLTR has received from the Scottish Government's internal legal advisers for this advice and amounts paid in respect of such advice, and
3. A short description of what was requested under FOISA that resulted in the QLTR seeking and paying for advice before furnishing the requester with a response and the total cost expended for each instance of this advice, along with respective names of any law firms or Counsel paid.

The QLTR has not paid a law firm or instructed Legal Counsel for advice or legal opinion on how to respond to any individual request received under FOISA.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, you do have the right to ask us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to The QLTR, Unit 5, 14a South St Andrew Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AZ, or for requests sent by e-mail to [coqltr@copfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coqltr@copfs.gsi.gov.uk).

The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, there is a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner under section 47(1) of FOISA.

Should you subsequently wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision on such an appeal, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only."