

Direct line: 020 7066 8080
Email: foi@fca.org.uk

August 2015

Our Ref: FOI4166

Dear

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"), regarding payments to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). For the full detail of your request please refer to Annex A.

Your request has now been considered. However, we estimate that to establish if we hold information falling within the scope of your request would exceed the 18 hour time limit. This is because we would need to undertake extensive searches of our expenses' accounts. As the cost to comply with your request exceeds the appropriate limit, the exemption under section 12 ('Over the cost limit') applies. For further details of this exemption, and why it applies, please refer to Annex B. In reaching this conclusion we have not considered whether any other exemptions apply.

When we refuse a request on this basis, it is our general policy to provide advice and assistance to the applicant to indicate how the request could be refined or limited to come within the cost limit. We could consider a revised request limited to point (b) for the full period stated in your request (2009 – 2015 to date) or we can consider point (a), (b) and (c) for a shorter time period of January 2015 to August 2015.

Please let us know which of these options you would prefer and we will treat this as a new request under the Act.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team

Your right to complain under the FoI Act

If you are unhappy with the decision made in relation to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact us within three months of the date of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk

Annex A

Full details of FOI request received on 6 August 2015:

"I am writing to obtain information about the amount your organisation pays to the Confederation of British Industry and its subsidiaries. Please provide the amount paid to the CBI (and its regional subsidiaries)

(a) in membership fees

(b) fees for one off conferences or other events and

(c) fees paid to the CBI for any other services.

Please make clear if the response includes payments from any Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Executive Agencies etc which fall under the department and please provide a breakdown of what payments came from which agency/body.

Please provide this information for the period 2009-2015 set out by calendar or financial year.

If you are unable to provide all of this information within the time/cost limit please work up to the limit focusing on membership fees.

Regarding the regional subsidiaries, the full list is here for your reference:

CBI Scotland

CBI Wales

CBI Northern Ireland

CBI East of England

CBI East Midlands

CBI London

CBI North East

CBI North West

CBI South East

CBI South West

CBI Thames Valley

CBI West Midlands

CBI Yorkshire and Humber

CBI International"

Annex B

- **Section 12 (Costs of compliance exceeds appropriate limit)**

We are not required to comply with a request under the Act if it would be too expensive to do so, as estimated in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (“the Regulations”) made by the Ministry of Justice. The Regulations provide that, for the FCA, the cost limit is £450, i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person per hour. The Regulations allow us to take into account, when estimating the cost of complying with a request, time spent determining whether we hold the information requested, locating and retrieving it and extracting the information from the relevant document(s).

To provide some context in this instance to answer point (a) of your request we would need to review 2976 staff expense forms submitted in the period January 2009 to 13 August 2015 that have an item posted to Professional Subscriptions. We cannot identify the body that has been subscribed to without physically viewing each staff expense form.

In this context, we estimate that it would take well in excess of 18 hours to undertake this work and would exceed the £450 limit. Since our policy is not to divert our resources from our regulatory functions in order to meet requests under the Act in excess of the cost limit, we will not be carrying out this exercise.