

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2019/34577

10 October 2019

Dear Mo Stewart,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 19 September 2019.

You asked:

*Please advise total costs for the contracts of private contractors, including both Atos Healthcare and Maximus, who were contracted by the DWP to conduct the work capability assessment since 2008 to the present day.*

**DWP Response:**

I can confirm that we hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we are unable to provide detail of expenditure incurred from 2008 to 2010 as we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request.

Under section 16 of the Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. Due to the specific nature of your request we are not able to advise you on how you could refine your request to enable us to provide you with any expenditure information for the period 2008 to 2010. Nor are we able to provide details of expenditure incurred in this current contract year 2019/2020, as such expenditure has not been audited.

We do, however, hold details of the expenditure incurred from 2010/11 to the end of the latest full financial year which includes supplier-costs associated with delivering Work Capability Assessments. This information is being provided to be helpful and outside of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Spend per annum - £m**

	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>155.3</b>	<b>177.5</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>171.9</b>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Commercial Directorate Correspondence Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Web: [ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745