



LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD

Legal Services Board
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

www.legalservicesboard.org.uk

Fol request (Ref: 20180608-01)

We refer to your email of 8 June 2018. Your further requests for information have been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FOIA') to the extent that your requests within the scope of that Act. The Legal Services Board's response is as follows:

1. ***"I note that you have sent details of two categories of employees - Regulatory Policy Manager and Regulatory Policy Associate. Please let me know separately the number of staff who are attached to each of these two categories together with details and statistics of other staff categories you may have."***

The LSB employed 5 regulatory policy managers and 6 regulatory policy associates at the date of the latest annual report.

Further information on staff categories and staff numbers is exempt from disclosure under s21 of FOIA because it is information that is reasonably accessible by other means. You will find this information at:

[http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/about_us/our_staff/2018/LSB_organisational_chart_\(May_2018\).pdf](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/about_us/our_staff/2018/LSB_organisational_chart_(May_2018).pdf)

http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/publications/pdf/2018/LSB_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2017-18.pdf

2. ***"You have eight regulatory objectives but what I have not been able to work out are the specific steps that have been taken to achieve them. Would you please enlighten me on this."***

This information is exempt from disclosure under s21 of FOIA because it is information that is reasonably accessible by other means. The LSB is obliged under the Legal Services Act 2007 to consider and have regard to the regulatory objectives in carrying out all of its work, to this end the LSB's annual report measures its performance (i.e. steps it has taken), against its strategic plan and business plan (i.e. steps it plans to take). The LSB's annual reports, strategic and business plans are

available at:

http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/publications/index.htm.

As previously advised, the Legal Services Act 2007 is a publicly available document found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

3. “Do you not take the view that as you are sponsored by the Ministry of Justice it has seriously compromised your independence?”

No, the LSB is an executive non-departmental public body which exercises its functions independent of its sponsoring department.

4. “Please let me know why are you sponsored by the MofJ and what does this entail?”

As an executive non-departmental public body created by the Legal Services Act 2007 the LSB is required to be sponsored by a government department/ Minister, (here the Ministry of Justice and Secretary of State for Justice/ Lord Chancellor) through whom it is ultimately accountable to Parliament. Parliament approves the Ministry of Justice’s budget under which the LSB receives funding in the form of a grant, funded by a levy on the profession in accordance with the Legal Services Act 2007.

5. “Does the MofJ monitor your emails and other correspondence?”

No.

6. “How many lawyers are working for the LSB and are they associates of the Government Legal Department/Service?”

At the date of the latest published annual report the LSB employed 3 lawyers. They are not associates of that department/service.

7. “Moreover, are they regulated by any of the regulators you oversee?”

Yes, by the Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

8. “Why is it that the OLC does not consider complaints against the judiciary for 'professional misconduct' when, to the best of my knowledge, there is no other body that does this work?”

Your request is refused under s14(2) of FOIA as this is a repeated request.

9. “As an oversight regulator you ought to be able to at least inform me whether or not the lawyers working for the Government Legal Department/Service are regulated by the regulators you oversee. Please clarify.”

Your request is refused under s14(2) of FOIA as this is a repeated request.

10. “It may be perfectly in order for solicitors to lawfully work in limited liability companies and partnerships but that should not extend for them to perform/carry out their professional roles and take instructions from clients under these entities. If you disagree, please give the reasons to support your stance.”

Your request is refused under s14(2) of FOIA as this is a repeated request.

11. “INVESTIGATORY REPORTS I could not locate this information from your website. Please send me the link for me to obtain these details. Please let me know whether these details will include any of the work you may have carried out relating to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (Probate Services).”

While we have the option of refusing the of your request under s14(2) of FOIA as this is a repeated request, here is the link again to the exact location of the reports:
[http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what we do/investigations.htm](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what_we_do/investigations.htm)

The LSB has not carried out such an investigation into the Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales.

12. “ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT Please send me the weblink from where these details can be accessed.”

While we have the option of refusing your request under s14(2) of FOIA as this is a repeated request, we have in fact provided the link to this information in response to your request at (1) and (2) above.

Refusal notice

We have refused some of your requests for information held by the LSB under s14(2) of FOIA as specified above. Section 14(2) provides that where a public body has previously complied with a request for information, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request from the same requester unless a reasonable time has elapsed. We do not consider that a reasonable time has elapsed between your current request received on 8 June 2018, and our response dated 30 May 2018 to your earlier requests for information.

Other information you have requested which is held by the LSB is exempt from disclosure under s21 of FOIA because that information is reasonably accessible by other means, as specified in our response to each such request above. If you believe the information refused on the basis of s21 is not readily accessible to you because of your personal circumstances, please let us know.

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have handled your request, you may request a review of our decision or make a complaint. Our complaint procedure is set out at: [http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/can we help/lbs policies procedures/freedom of information/index.htm](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/can_we_help/lbs_policies_procedures/freedom_of_information/index.htm).

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you may refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please be aware that the Commissioner will be unlikely to make a decision until you have been through our internal complaints procedure first. You can write to the Commissioner at:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please quote the above reference number in all communications on this request.