

F-2014-00109 - Details of HFEA funding of and correspondence with the Science Media Centre

25 April 2014

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for details of funding provided by the HFEA to the Science Media Centre, correspondence and contracts between the organisations.

HFEA response

The HFEA has made two payments to the Science Media Centre. The first was a payment of £2000 in August of 2012 with the second sum amounting to £3000 in September 2013. As the Science Media Centre is a charity these payments take the form as donations and so no written record of services offered exists. For the same reason no Memoranda of Understanding or contracts exist between the HFEA and the Science Media Centre.

The Authority estimates that the cost of complying with the part of this request requiring a copy of all correspondence between the HFEA and the Science Media Centre, from 1 January 2012 to present, would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('the Regulations'). This limit is £450 and for the purposes of estimating cost, staff time is calculated at notional rate of £25 per hour. Section 12 of the FOIA allows public authorities to decline to provide information requested under the FOIA where the cost of doing so would exceed this appropriate limit.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information the Regulations entitle the Authority to take into account the combined costs of determining whether the information is held, locating the information, retrieving the information and extracting the information for the purpose of disclosure.

The Authority has estimated the cost of complying fully with this request as £975 and for this reason the request is refused. This cost was estimated as follows:

Locating and identifying information – 33hrs

Extraction – 6hrs

If it would be possible to refine the request for correspondence, perhaps in relation to time frame and to a particular subject of interest, then the HFEA would endeavour to meet the requirements of the new request.