



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1781
Date 20 December 2024

ASYLUM SEEKER LEGAL COSTS

Thank you for your FOI request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 6 December 2024. You asked for *"the average taxpayer cost for each legal bill per individual asylum seeker and illegal immigrants and the average amount of hours spent on each case."*

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have checked our financial audit and value for money audit files and can confirm that we do not hold the information you requested.

The Home Office is responsible for immigration and the asylum process. You may therefore want to contact the Home Office with any queries you have about the costs of asylum claims and immigration enforcement. The contact email for FOI requests is: foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk. You may also want to contact the Legal Aid Agency which is responsible for administering any payments related to legal aid. The contact email address for FOI requests: data.access@justice.gov.uk.

I hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer