



Mark Tovey

By email: _____

FOI Reference: FOI2020/06201
07/07/2020

Dear Mark Tovey

I refer to your request where you asked:

“1) Please tell me how much was spent by your department on paying for the provision of new items of office furniture and equipment to facilitate staff to work from home during the coronavirus lockdown.

2) Please state how much was spent on paying for the transportation of office furniture and equipment, which was not new but had already been in use, to your staff members’ homes during the coronavirus lockdown.

3) Please provide me with the cost and the make and model of the single most expensive item of equipment or furniture that was bought for a staff member to facilitate their working from home during the coronavirus lockdown.”

Central guidance has been provided to government departments to support them with managing working from home adjustments in line with departmental policies, including expenses.

All staff in the department are issued with laptops as standard equipment when they join to facilitate flexible working. Staff have been able to use their standard IT kit when working from home. There has been no requirement for a systemic change to our IT. However, the department has set out an expenses policy to allow staff to purchase IT equipment and office furniture to aide working from home.

With regards to your first question, I can confirm that £11,554 was spent on specialist furniture at the time of your request.

For your second question, no delivery costs were incurred by the department for the transportation of office furniture and equipment from departmental to buildings to the homes of staff members.

On your last question, the single most expensive item (at the time of this request) was a Herman Miller Sayl Chair which cost £449. This chair was purchased to support a member of staff with an existing back condition.

All costs incurred as a result of working from home adjustments are subject to strict controls to ensure value for taxpayers' money.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. C.', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office