

6 May 2016



Re: FOI request 2016/144

Dear 

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department:

"An itemized list of all expenditure undertaken by the Department for the compilation of the Cassels report on third level funding: on legal fees, on consultancy fees; on hotel accommodation; on travel and any other relevant expenditure."

I have now made a final decision to grant your request on May 2016.

The following table details the expenditure associated with the work of the Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education (Cassells report). Please note that no expenditure was incurred on legal fees. It should also be noted that members of the Expert Group did not receive any payment for their time, nor did they receive expenses for attending meetings.

Commissioned Research	Cost (incl. VAT)
Qualitative Focus Group Research on Attitudes to Higher Education	€24,969
Review of International Funding Models	€14,439
Travel	
Study Visit to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands*	€1,384
Stakeholder Engagement	
Consultation Forum January - catering	€1,335
Consultation Forum June - catering	€954
Consultation Forum October - room hire, catering	€2,265
Report Design	
Design, formatting and lay-out of report	€1,538
Total	€46,884

* Includes travel costs for Peter Cassells (Chair of Expert Group), Mary Doyle (Deputy Secretary General, DES) & Laura Casey (Secretariat to the Group, DES). The study visit covered a range of higher education issues, including funding.

Right of appeal

Please note that you may appeal this decision. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Please note the Department of Education and Skills no longer accepts cheque payments from business users. For further information regarding payment methods for business users, please email foi@education.gov.ie

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 01-8892156.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Casey
Assistant Principal Officer