



Home Office

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By Email:

FOI Reference: 41250

Date: 28 April 2017

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 September 2016 in which you ask for a total figure for the amount of money the UK Government has spent since 2010 on deterring illegal immigration in Calais and the surrounding region, including a breakdown on the measures this has been used to fund. I am sorry for the delay in responding. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your question and the response to it is outlined below.

**“I want to know how much the Government has spent since 2010 to deter illegal immigration in Calais and the surrounding region. I would like a total figure in pounds and a detailed breakdown on the measures this has been used to fund.”**

I can confirm that the total investment in border security at the juxtaposed controls in the Calais area includes day to day activity such as carrying out passport checks on all passengers, searching for illicit goods, as well as stopping and deterring illegal migration. It also includes the recent investment to reinforce security through infrastructure improvements at Border Force’s controls in Northern France as well as wider activity by the Home Office and its partners, including the National Crime Agency, to stop and deter illegal migration in the Calais region.

This investment is set out in Annex A. Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, total spending in Calais and the surrounding regions increased significantly due to a combination of increased migrant pressures in Calais, new operational and technological improvements at the juxtaposed controls and improvements to infrastructure in the region.

We are unable to confirm details of specific investments due to the reasons set out in Annex B. However, in general terms, since 2010, the UK, working closely with the French Government, has taken a number of measures in Calais and the surrounding region to deter illegal immigration. This includes investing in security infrastructure at the juxtaposed

controls, supporting the French Government in providing migrants from Calais with suitable alternative accommodation elsewhere in France, tackling the people smugglers, encouraging migrants to claim asylum in France and returning those not in need of protection to their home country.

We have a strong track record of joint work with the French Government. In August 2015 a Joint Ministerial Declaration committed the UK and France to a comprehensive programme of work to protect our shared border. The UK Government takes the security of the border seriously and has invested in extra fencing and infrastructure, Border Force officers, security guards, search dogs and technological improvements, including an upgrade of the scanning equipment. As part of the Joint Declaration, a joint command and control centre was established to coordinate the law enforcement response to migrants in Calais attempting to reach the UK illegally. The French Government deployed record numbers of police officers to manage migrant intrusions in the area and continues to maintain a high police presence in the region.

The 2015 Joint Declaration committed the UK and France to regularly review security at the juxtaposed ports in northern France. Regular Joint Security Reviews have taken place at the ports, led by Border Force and involving UK and French officials and commercial operators. We are continuing to implement actions identified in these reviews to enhance security, including work to secure the Calais approach road with the construction of a new wall which was completed at the end of 2016.

At the UK-France summit in Amiens on 3 March 2016, the Home Secretary announced that the UK would contribute £17 million towards joint work with France to ease migrant pressures in the Calais region and further strengthen the UK border. This money has been invested in priority infrastructure works in Calais and Dunkirk to further protect the approach roads towards Calais port, reception centres which provide migrants with suitable accommodation outside Calais, and work to return those not in need of protection to their home countries.

As you may be aware, the French Government, with support from the UK, recently conducted an operation to clear the camp in Calais. The French Government has confirmed that this operation has been successful and that the camp is now closed. We worked very closely with the French to ensure the clearance was delivered as safely as possible. As a key part of the operation, the French Government, with support from the UK, provided migrants in Calais with alternative accommodation elsewhere in France, including more than 160 new centres away from Calais.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 41250. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team  
Home Office  
Fourth Floor, Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
e-mail: [foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you

remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely,

**H Sheikh**

BICS PSG

## Annex A

### Total annual costs for Border Force at Calais and surrounding locations from 2010/11 to 2015/16 to secure the border

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>39.1</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>111.7</b>	<b>315.9</b>

## **Annex B**

### **Information Requested**

*“A detailed breakdown on the measures the money spent in Calais and the surrounding region to deter illegal immigration since 2010 has been used to fund.”*

### **Response**

The information is exempt from disclosure under sections 24 and 31 of the FOI Act. Section 24 provides that information can be withheld where disclosure may jeopardise national security. Section 31 provides that information can be withheld where disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice law enforcement: particularly the provision at (1)(e) -the operation of the immigration controls.

### **Public Interest Test**

Some of the exemptions in the FOI Act, referred to as ‘qualified exemptions’, are subject to a public interests test (PIT). This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information, or the considerations for and against the requirement to say whether the information requested is held or not. We must carry out a PIT where we are considering using any of the qualified exemptions in response to a request for information.

The ‘public interest’ is not the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole. The ‘right to know’ must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public. The FOI Act is ‘applicant blind’. This means that we cannot, and do not, ask about the motives of anyone who asks for information. In providing a response to one person, we are expressing a willingness to provide the same response to anyone, including those who might represent a threat to the UK.

### **Considerations in favour of disclosing the information**

We recognise that any details related to the specific financing of security measures in northern France are of significant and legitimate public interest. There is a public interest in ensuring that those who are subject to immigration controls are aware of those controls and how they operate, as this may discourage such persons from seeking to enter or remain in the UK illegally, or assisting others to do so.

If the general public were made aware of this, it could improve public perception of the Government’s determination to combat organised immigration crime. It could also improve the public perception of the Home Office’s ability to detect and combat such abuse and take appropriate action against offenders.

### **Considerations in favour of maintaining the exemption**

If we were to disclose this information it would give individuals (including criminals, terrorists and people smugglers) detailed insight into where we have invested significant amounts of money and where we have not. Disclosure would increase the ability of criminals or those wishing to harm the UK to circumvent, or plan for measures in place, to protect the UK. It is considered that providing information that could potentially enable individuals to circumvent the measures put in place to deter illegal immigration would prejudice the operation of immigration controls, and by extension have the potential to impact upon the security of the UK as a whole. To provide information which would allow individuals the opportunity to act in such a manner is clearly not in the public interest.

Taking all the circumstances of the case into account, the Home Office concludes that the public interest weighs in favour of non-disclosure.