



Parliamentary Question – Information Officers

Date: 17 December 2015

Ref: 20610

Asked by: Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull)

Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many press and public relations staff are employed by (a) her Department, (b) the Disclosure and Barring Service, (c) the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, (d) the Independent Police Complaints Commission, (e) the National Crime Agency, (f) the Security Industry Authority, (g) UK Visas and Immigration and (h) HM Inspectorate of Constabulary; how many of those employees earn more than (i) £50,000 and (ii) £100,000; and what the total expenditure was on press and public relations by each of those organisations in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Response:

The table shows the number of staff employed by the press office at 30 November 2015. It also shows the number of staff that cost the department over £50,000 and £100,000 and the total cost of the press office for 2014/15. The Home Office press office covers a wide remit including police, crime, counter-terrorism, extremism, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, Her Majesty's Passport Office, serious and organised crime as well as – from those agencies listed in the question – (f) the Security Industry Authority, and (g) UK Visas and Immigration. The department does not employ public relations staff. These costs to the department do not represent salaries earned. The press office operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year and the figures include weekend and on-call allowances, overtime as well as pension and national insurance costs. Across Government the government communications profession saved £330 million for taxpayers last year compared to 2009 to 2010 - by making its campaigns more cost effective.

This means that we reduced communications spending by a total of £1 billion during the last Parliament. There were three prosecutions (one failed) for suspected breaches of Employment Agencies Standards (EAS) Regulations in 2013-14. Fines totalling £5,200 were issued and total compensation and costs awarded to workers

was £6,041. Information on prosecutions prior to 2013/14 can be found in EAS Annual Reports online.

During 2013/14 and 2014/15, there were six and nine prosecutions respectively for offences contained within the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004. Penalties included fines and custodial sentences for these and other non labour market offences.

The Modern Slavery Act offences, which could fall within the remit of the Director, came into force on 31st July 2015. Data is not yet available for those offences.

	(a) Home Office	(b) DBS	(c) GLA	(d) IPCC	(e) NCA	(h) HMIC
No of staff	56**	2	1	13	***16 full time and 3 part time	2
Cost over £50,000	27	1	0	8	8	2
Cost over £100,000	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost £	£3,042,834	£110,126	*	£600,746	£985,300	£109,189

*The Gangmasters Licensing Authority does not have a dedicated press office but part of the role of one communications and information officer is spent on media handling work for the GLA. The press cost cannot be separated out.

**7 posts transferred internally from Digital Communications to Press Office at the end of December 2014.

***NCA posts are employed in press and public relations roles. These officers cover press office, digital media, campaigns and strategic communication disciplines.