



# Ministry of **JUSTICE**

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15 March 2010

Dear Grant

## **Parliamentary Question on expenditure on the Government Car and Despatch Agency**

In February you asked a Parliamentary Question about how much the Ministry of Justice has paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years, how much it has spent on such payments in 2009/10, and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. When I responded, I said I would write to you with the information you requested once it had been collated and analysed. I am sorry for the delay.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is split into two businesses: Government Cars and Government Mail. Government Cars (formerly known as the Government Car Service) provides cars and drivers to government Ministers, and runs other people-movement services for the wider public sector.

The following table shows total expenditure with the GCDA by the Ministry of Justice and its four executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian). An additional amount is shown which could not be readily divided between car and despatch components.

Information for 2004/05 can only be retrieved at disproportionate cost from archived paper records. Figures for 2005/06 to 2007/08 exclude any expenditure incurred by what is now the Criminal Justice Group in MoJ and by some headquarters functions relating to NOMS. This data is recorded on Home Office systems and can only be disaggregated at disproportionate cost. The 2009-10 figures are for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 and are unaudited.

Year	Total Expenditure £'000s	Government Cars £'000s	Government Mail £'000s	GCDA amount not split out £'000s
2005-06	1,037	776	235	26
2006-07	1,371	1,037	310	24
2007-08	1,464	1,102	338	24
2008-09	1,743	1,221	493	29
2009-10 (months 1 to 10)	1,302	636	615	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,917</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>154</b>

*Figures exclude recoverable VAT.*

All travel by Ministry of Justice staff members and Ministers is undertaken in line with the published rules for official travel and subsistence within the staff handbook. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Civil Service Management Code*.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons library.

Yours ever



**MICHAEL WILLS MP**