

From the Office of the Minister of Finance & Personnel

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Dear

In response to your question asked in the Chamber following my 21 January 2014 Statement on January Monitoring, I committed to providing you with clarification on the reduced requirement declared by my department relating to legal costs.

Briefing by my officials to the Committee for Finance and Personnel on 11 December 2013 indicated that my department would surrender a reduced requirement relating to legal costs of £1.9 million. However, a further review of departmental requirements for the remainder of this year, ahead of the deadline for January Monitoring returns of 3 January, identified an additional easement of £0.1 million relating to funding set aside to meet the costs of a legal challenge. As a consequence, the reduced requirement declared increased to £2.1 million (with the remaining disparity due to a rounding difference).

Of the £2.1 million reduced requirement, £1.23 million relates to land registration cases, £0.7 million relates to a number of equal pay cases and £0.13m relates to a personal injury compensation case. You will appreciate that on grounds of confidentiality, I am unable to specify the relevant cases.

I will arrange for copies of this letter to be placed in the Assembly Library and copied to the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

Yours sincerely

SIMON HAMILTON MLA