



Jenny Chapman MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 1AA

Our ref: PQ 203243

16th February 2015

Dear Jenny

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Prison Service spent on severance pay for staff at prison officer grades in each year from 2010 to 2013. (Answered in Hansard on 8 July 2014, Column 265W)

I undertook to write to you with the information when it was available.

Information on the total amount spent on severance payments to officers in the public sector Prison Service in each year from 2010 to 2013 has now become available and is shown in the table below. The large increase in payments in 2013 was due to Voluntary Early Departure Schemes being available in large numbers to prison officers for the first time in 2013. These schemes were in relation to prison closures.

**Table: Annual amount spent on severance payments¹ to prison officers
April 2010 - December 2013**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount (£s)</u>
2010 ²	3,002,420
2011	4,181,680
2012	5,737,900
2013	56,487,250

¹ Severance payments include payments as a result of voluntary early departure schemes and also payments as compensation for medically related dismissals. Payments are allocated to the year paid, which in some cases may be after the leaving date of the officer.

² Spending shown for 2010 only covers 1 April 2010 – 31 December 2010 as information on severance payments prior to 1 April 2010 is held by a private contractor and is not currently available.

I hope you find this information helpful. I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Selous". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

ANDREW SELOUS