

PQ 41726/24 Response

The table below outlines the number of legal cases taken against the Department of Transport in each of the past ten years and to date in 2024. These are cases created in the Chief State Solicitor's Office (CSSO) case management system where the Minister for Transport was linked to the file as a client and where the CSSO acted. Cases where the Minister for Transport was named in the proceedings are also included, although another Minister may have taken the lead in the case.

Minister for Transport	
Row Labels	Count
2014	33
2015	33
2016	28
2017	16
2018	31
2019	34
2020	28
2021	26
2022	37
2023	52
2024	32
Total	332

In respect of the costs associated with these cases in each of those years, the CSSO do incur some costs on behalf of clients, but this is not the full range of potential costs in any given case. The CSSO pays costs such as payment of Counsel fees and some ancillary costs, however, the figures in respect of all legal costs incurred by the CSSO for the number of legal cases taken against the Department of Transport in each of the past ten years and to date in 2024 are not readily available.

However, the management of claims in respect of cost orders made on or after 29 May 2018 both for and against the State has been delegated to the State Claims Agency. There have been 95 claims received since January 2014 to End-September 2024 by the State Claims Agency for the Department of Transport. The table below relates to claims against the Department alone, and does not include any agencies under the aegis of the Minister. Note, claims numbers may differ slightly from previous reports due to claim reclassifications in the intervening period. The amount paid relates to open and closed claims and relates to all fees: damages (special and general), legal and expert costs. There may be outstanding amounts to be paid on these claims, as

a number of cases are ongoing, and costs are not yet finalised. To avoid breaches of data protection legislation, some transaction years have been merged where appropriate to avoid possible identification of payments made in individual claims:

Minister for Transport

Year	Cost
2014 - 2019	€185,564
2020	€11,840
2021	€1,072,734
2022	€445,535
2023	€56,735
2024 (to end September 2024)	€3,557
Total	€1,775,965

The expenditure incurred in respect of Fees paid to Counsel and other legal fees incurred by the CSSO is set out in the published Annual Appropriations Accounts for Vote 6 for the Office of the Chief State Solicitor.