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## Afghans paid \$2 billion in bribes in the past 12 months

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Afghan people paid nearly \$2 billion in bribes over the past 12 months, according to a report by Integrity Watch Afghanistan.

The judicial institutions of Afghanistan have been named one of the corrupt departments of the Afghan government in the report, while the police have secured the second position among the most corrupt departments.

The report is based on interviews conducted with 7,700 men and women in 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

According to the report, the education and health departments have secured the third and fourth positions among the most corrupt institutions.

The Integrity Watch Afghanistan Chief Executive, Yama Turabi said the average amount of bribe paid by Afghan people has increased from \$190 last year to \$240 this year.

Majority of the Afghan people believe that their work will not be processed in government institutions without paying bribes.

This comes as Afghan officials confirm corruption in government institutions despite enormous efforts and investments have been made by the international community to reduce corruption.

Afghan officials are saying that efforts are still being made to reduce or end corruption in government institutions.

In the meantime, the Integrity Watch officials in its report have said that the provision of services by government institutions has considerably improved; however, corruption is still on the rise in the government departments.

The officials also added that the government's will to fight corruption is not successful due to the lack of a powerful department to act in this regard.

Integrity Watch officials said lack of punishment is one of the other reasons behind growing corruption in government institutions.

Turabi said the latest survey report reveals that majority of Afghans believe that corruption is one of the major risk in Afghanistan after security.