



Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI 2945

Thank you for your request concerning legal spends for 2017-2018.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. Total global legal spend for financial year 2017 - 2018 - i.e. the cost spent on external law firms / lawyers, ideally broken down by expenditure on;

- a. Inquests.**
- b. Claims excess (employment and public liability).**
- c. Court of protection.**
- d. Employment law advice.**
- e. Any other legal expenditure.**

The total spend on legal expenses for 2017/18 was £177,000

We are unable to provide the breakdown as requested as the information requested is not held in a reportable electronic format¹.

In order to break this down and allocate charges to a category, we would have to review an estimated 190 invoices and this would take approximately 7 minutes per record. To carry out this task it would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. It is estimated that it would take 22 hours @ £25ph = £550.

f. Summary of legal department structure - either in chart form or otherwise by banding only

The Trust does not have a Legal Department. The Trust employs a Band 7 Legal Services Lead (30hrs) and a Band 4 administrator (15hrs).

¹ Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 'appropriate limit' prescribed in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Farrell

Information Rights Officer

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

