

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

We require financial information relating to each local authority's spend on internal and external legal services over the past three years, as well as general information on how local authorities procure external legal services.

I write to you, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to provide the following information:

Notes:

- #1** If the legal department is combined with another service please make an estimate of the cost of providing legal services.
- #2** If cases run over a financial year please estimate the value of work done for the financial year or, if your information is stored differently, please provide a brief explanation on how the given figure was calculated.
- #3** Please exclude all third party payments and only include direct payments to barristers or Chambers.

ANSWER:

Spend Information (financial year)	Internal Legal Services (#1) (total cost including overheads etc.)	All External Legal Services (#2) (exc. VAT)	Direct payments to Barristers or Chambers ONLY (#3) (exc. VAT)
2010/11	£2,207k	£ 292k	£ 428k
2011/12	£1,828k	£ 239k	£ 418k
2012/13	£1,854k	£ 289k	£ 353k

NOTES:

- Internal Legal Services – the costs are only those charged directly to Legal Services, as no meaningful consistent apportionment of corporate overheads is available for the years in question.

Do you redact the names of barristers if they appear in any of your "spend over £500" datasets?	No
Does your legal services department provide legal services to external clients?	Yes
How does your local authority contract external legal services with the Bar? (i.e. through a consortium, framework agreement, Panel, etc.)	A Framework Agreement

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.