

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:

I would like information on why and how much pay rise was given to the 5 principal lawyers.

Answer:

See attached Business Case for Phase 1 of the Legal Services Review. This contains the full narrative. Additionally, the new "Principal Solicitor" posts were evaluated under the Council's Job Evaluation scheme, which independently confirmed their banding.

See 2014 03 25 Surani 5258 Attachment 1.

A small amount of personal information has been removed as we are withholding that information since we consider that to be an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of information Act 2000.

How savings were made during the review.

See attached Business Case for Phases 1 and 2 of the Legal Services Review. These are attached in full, save for the removal of Appendix 1 of the Phase 2 Business Case document, as it lists each of the 69 members of "staff in scope".

See 2014 03 25 Surani 5258 Attachment 2.

A small amount of personal information has been removed as we are withholding that information since we consider that to be an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of information Act 2000.

The number of staff made redundant.

24

The amount of redundancy payments made to staff

£216,832.32

How much has it cost the department to recruit locum and agency staff to provide the services.

£76,077.31 has been expended from the staffing budget to fill posts left vacant after the Review, pending recruitment.

The cost of advertising in the Law Society Gazette for recruitment to replace staff made redundant.

£3,480

How can the department justify increasing the salaries of principal solicitors up to £20,000.00 when staff are being made redundant.

The business case answered in question 1 explains this. See 2014 03 25 Surani 5258 Attachment 1.

The overall costs of employing locums.

The overall cost is answered with question 5 above.

The cost of instructing outside solicitors barristers because of lack of staff in the department.

£4,800

How much if anything the department saved during the review.

From Phase 1 £144,215 (Appendix 9 of the Phase 1 Business Case) attachment 1.
From Phase 2 £427,448 (Appendix 6 of the Phase 2 Business Case) attachment 2.

How many applications received from the last two recruitment exercises.

156 applicants for posts advertised as a result of the Review.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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: info.requests@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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.