



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-181

Date: 3rd August 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Spend on legal services

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Please could you provide us with following details?

1. Total spend on legal services in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

A1 The total spend on outsourcing work to firms of solicitors and to barristers chambers is as follows:

- 2019/20: £91,592
- 2020/21: £107,534
- 2021/22: £202,023

This excludes the Trust's clinical negligence and personal injury claims which are dealt with through NHS Resolution. Information regarding these claims can be obtained from NHS Resolution

Q2 The names of the law firms you bought services from over that period

A2 See below:

- Littleton Chambers
- No5 Chambers
- Sergeants Inn
- Browne Jacobson
- Mills and Reeve
- Capsticks
- Weightmans
- Hill Dickinson

Q3 A breakdown of the total spend by fees and settlement payments

A3 The total legal spend is set out above in response to question 1. These figures do not include any settlement payments. Details of any settlement payments in respect of the Trust's clinical negligence and personal injury claims can be obtained from NHS Resolution.

Q4 The means of procurement – e.g. a direct award, competitive tender, framework (including which framework you used), etc.

A4 In respect of outsourced work to legal firms we use the North of England Framework collaborative agreement. For barristers chambers we use direct award.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

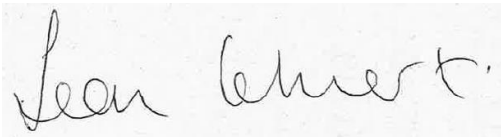
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager