

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act - 2021.861 Released - 28 June 2021

Thank you for your email dated 8 June 2021 requesting information regarding law services.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request:

What is your spend with external law firms

20/21 Spend actual invoices posted	Total
Legal and Professional Fees	518,924

Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymetrix, Mitratech etc.)

We do not have any specific legal software for ebilling.

Who is your head of legal / general counsel

It is Trust policy to not release names and contact details of staff below Executive Director Level as this constitutes personal information which is exempt under Section 40(2) in conjunction with Section 40(3A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to 'Personal Information'.

An excerpt of the relevant Freedom of Information legislation can be found below:

Section 40 - Personal information

- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
- (a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and
- (b) either the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.
- (3a) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act
 - would contravene any of the data protection principles, or (a)
 - would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual (b) unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

However, we can confirm that we have a Trust Lawyer and that the Executive Director with overall responsibility for the Legal Team is Natalie Davies – Corporate Services Director.

Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services

KCHFT do not have a preferred framework at this time, however we have used the LPP framework recently.

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT