

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8730

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03 January 2024

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to External Law Firms.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.*

1. *What is your spend with external law firms (please provide for the last 4 financial years)?*
2. *Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymetrix, Mitrastech etc.)?*
3. *Who is your head of legal / general counsel (please provide email address)?*
4. *Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services? Please provide details where possible.*

Trust response:

1.

Financial Year	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20
Total for selected suppliers	224,978.60	258,522.61	177,954.02	259,013.47

Please note: These figures are from a provided list of suppliers. However, if the Trust has had advice over the past four years that used a one-off supplier, we may not have captured this information. We would need to manually look through thousands of transaction lines which would take us over the time allowed under Section 12 of the act.

2. Not as far as we are aware.

3. We currently have an Interim Head of Legal. This post has been recruited to and will commence in March 2024. We would not provide details of any legal counsel as these are appointed as necessary on a case by case basis.

4. We have panel firms appointed by the NHS Resolution who handle clinical negligence and Third party claims on behalf of the insurer. We are due to go out to tender in 2024 for other legal advice work.