



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2008-04903

**Keyword:** Finance

**Subject:** PSNI SPEND ON EXTERNAL LEGAL SERVICES

**Request:**

**For the most recently available financial year, how much did you spend on external legal services?**

**Answer:**

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

**Answer -** Please find attached records numbered 01766.pdf below.

I have provided the information that could be retrieved within the cost limit. To ascertain the proportion of the cost of external legal services spent on external solicitors or counsel fees would necessitate a search of all the relevant documentation and invoices for the last financial year and would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [FOI@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@psni.pnn.police.uk)

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psnipolice.uk/>

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

**Freedom of information Act Request**

Please mark boxes as appropriate.

**External Legal Spend****For the most recently available financial year, how much did you spend on external legal services?**

£0 - £100k	
£100 - £250k	
£250 - £500k	
£500 - £750k	
£750k - £1m	
£1 - £2m	
£2m+	£5,220,939

**What proportion was spent on:**

a) external solicitors?	Not available
b) counsel fees?	Not available

**Internal Legal Spend****For the most recently available financial year, how much did you spend on internal legal services?**

£0 - £100k	
£100 - £250k	
£250 - £500k	
£500 - £750k	
£750k - £1m	£799,551
£1 - £2m	
£2m+	

**Do any other government departments do legal work for you? If so, please give details for the most recently available financial year.**

Crown Solicitor's Office £1,529,168  
 This figure is included in the £5,220,939 quoted in our original response in respect of External Legal Spend above

**Please detail the size of your in-house team.**

23 staff – including 7 legal staff

**Special Projects****Are any special projects included in your general budget figures? For example, any one off projects such as regeneration schemes, which might be included within the figures you are quoting in answer to my questions about external and internal legal spend. If so, please give details.**

NO

**Panel****Do you currently operate a legal panel?**

NO

<b>If so, what is its scope, and how long is the appointment?</b>
NA
<b>When does your current panel expire? NA</b>
<b>Do you have a framework agreement? If so, please could I have a copy? NO</b>

**Firms**

<b>Which external law firms do you currently use? NONE</b>

**Catalist**

<b>Do you use the Catalist framework for the provision of legal services? NO</b>	
<b>If so, which categories do you use?</b>	
All	
IT Telecommunications and E-Commerce	
Property and Estates	
Construction	
Employment & Pensions	
Corporate Finance	
Intellectual Property	
Full Commercial	
Major Projects	