

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-767

Request:

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, Mitratech 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.

Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

1. For the last four financial years the spend on external law firms has been:

2019/2020	£223,733
2020/2021	£331,987
2021/2022	£404,879
2022/2023	£360,092

2. No
3. Steven Pompeus LLB LLM, Head of Legal Services

With regards to your request for email addresses, EKHUFT declines to provide this information. Email addresses are personal data for the purpose of data protection law and disclosure of employees' email accounts can lead to unwanted and unwarranted marketing messages reducing employees' ability to be as productive as they would wish. We believe this to be in line with Sections 40 (2) and 40 (3A) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. The Trust does not use a preferred supplier list or a framework. For clinical health law matters the Trust uses the same law firm as the allocated law firm for the NHS Resolution Panel under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST). The Trust uses a mix of law firms for other work depending on which legal discipline is required. The Trust's in-house legal team carry out a certain amount of legal functions but does instruct law firms/Counsel for some matters.

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 18 DECEMBER 2023)