



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Information Compliance Team
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

t. 02380 644000
e. DP@hantsfire.gov.uk
w. hantsfire.gov.uk

Date: 14 June 2024

Our Reference: FOI 031 24-25

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 24 May 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

What is your spend with external law firms (please provide for the last 4 financial years)

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested. Please find it in the table below. Please be aware that these costs include barrister and other court costs.

2020/21	£169,575.18
2021/22	£138,044.03
2022/23	£116,946.06
2023/24	£228,763.03

You asked:

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

Our answer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service does not use eBilling technology to manage our law firm billing.

You asked:

Who is your Head of Legal or General Counsel (please provide email address)

Who is your Head of Procurement (please provide email address)

Our answer:

Our legal and procurement services are provided through an agreement with Hampshire County Council. Consequently, these individuals are not members of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. As the information requested would enable the identification of individuals of a third-party organisation, it would be unfair, within the meaning of the UK GDPR, to provide this information to the world at large in response to your request. As such, we are refusing to provide this data per Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

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.

Our answer:

We do not have any of the above systems to buy our external law firm services. This is because most of our legal services are covered by a Service Level Agreement with Hampshire County Council as part of our joint working arrangements. We also use other specialist legal advice.

The above concludes our investigation into this matter.

Any future correspondence with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service in relation to this matter should be sent to the Information Compliance Officer at the above address.

If for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response you may request an internal review by contacting DP@hantsfire.gov.uk or by writing to the Data Protection Officer at the above address.

Should you remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioners Office. This can be done online at www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints or by post to The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service

