



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

21 December 2022

2022-086

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 30 November, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

1) The total spend, broken down by financial or calendar year, on external legal advice since April 1, 2020. (I.e. 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 to date)
1a) Please break this down by the list of associated cases or disputes, and their individual cost.

1b) If possible, please provide the final settlement or damages or other court mandated payment cost for any cases during which external legal advice was sought. If it is not possible to link each case to a settlement agreement, please provide the total cost of the settlements or payments.

Response

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority is able to provide the following.

The table below provides information held in respect of external legal services which includes, but is not restricted to, legal advice. The figures provided are for the financial year and exclude VAT.

Financial Year	2020/21	2021/22	Apr-Nov 2022
Total excl. VAT	£69,807.85	£60,966.90	£57,581.15

Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of this spend, over the same period, by individual matter (as per request 1a).

In relation to request 1b, we have provided a total figure for the full period only.

April 2020 – November 2022	
Total cost of settlements	£883,000

In this instance, due to the low number of settlements/awards, it is likely that individuals could be identified by providing settlements/awards per matter. Therefore, this information is considered to be exempt under Section 38(1)(b) Personal data of a third party. Disclosure would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is absolute and therefore does not require the application of the public interest test.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Appendix 1 - Total spend (ex VAT) on each matter during financial year

Matter	2020/21	2021/22	Apr-Nov 2022
A	£21,390.00	£1,621.80	0
B	£12,874.00	£4,709.40	£4,432.60
C	£209.30	£967.50	0
D	£2,461.00	£7,664.50	0
E	£1,371.85	£1,341.60	0
F	£10,429.00	£29,188.40	0
G	£1,586.00	0	0
H	£2,200.00	0	0
I	£676.20	£1,406.90	£1,621.50
J	£1,451.00	0	0
K	£159.50	0	0
L	£15,000.00	0	0
M	0	£78.00	0
N	0	£950.00	£2,700.00
O	0	£3,801.50	0
P	0	£2,869.30	£485.30
Q	0	£3,710.00	£16,500.00
R	0	£1,630.00	£437.50
S	0	£1,028.00	£848.00
T	0	0	£3,804.00
U	0	0	£19,752.25
V	0	0	£7,000.00
Total	£69,807.85	£60,966.90	£57,581.15