

**Information Governance**  
White Building  
Littlemore Mental Health Centre  
Sandford Road  
Littlemore  
Oxford  
OX4 4XN

Tel: 0845 219 1269  
Fax: 0845 219 1275  
Web: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

18 July 2018  
Our ref: 18190108

Dear

### **Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act**

Thank you for your email of 28 June, making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

#### Request:

- \* total global legal spend for financial year 2017 - 2018 - i.e. the cost spent on external law firms / lawyers.
- \* Ideally broken down by expenditure on
- \* Inquests
- \* Claims excess (employment and public liability)
- \* Court of protection
- \* employment law advice
- \* Any other legal expenditure
- \* Summary of legal department structure - either in chart form or otherwise by Banding only.

#### Response:

The global figure is £376,181.50 excluding VAT

The Trust do not in fact have a "legal department". The Trust has an Inquests and Claims team, whose remit extends to authorising retained company if the Trust requires legal advice. 1 band 7, 1 band 5, .5 of band 4.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for Fol Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance