

FOI 3321

30th September 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1) In the calendar years of 2022, 2023 and 2024, how much was spent on solicitors and lawyers representing the trust in the Family Courts?

Response:

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the information cannot be extracted within the current finance systems without a significant manual trawl and the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

If you are able to refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please contact us for advice and assistance on refining your request if required.

Question 2) How many cases did the trust go to Family Court over in the same years?

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

If you are able to refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please contact us for advice and assistance on refining your request if required.

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