

## Freedom of Information Request

**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.22.2559  
**Date Received:** 04.07.2022

### Information Requested:

1. Total spend on legal services in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

The fees below are the direct fees associated with various aspects of legal advice from the Trust's framework panel solicitor's e.g. legal queries, procurement, employment tribunals etc.

Year	Fees
2019/2020	£270.4k
2020/2021	£426.0k
2021/2022	£472.8k

2. The names of the law firms you bought services from over that period

Hempsons  
DAC Beachcroft Claims Ltd  
Browne Jacobson LLP  
Kennedys  
Mills + Reeve LLP  
Bevan Brittan LLP

3. Total spend by fees and settlement payments

Year	Fees	Settlements
2019/2020	£270.4k	£102.8k
2020/2021	£426.0k	£124.9k
2021/2022	£362.7k	£110.1k

In cases relating to clinical negligence, employer's liability and public liability claims, the Trust is a member of NHS Resolutions insurance scheme and makes an annual contribution to the NHS Resolutions who handle, and settle cases on behalf of the Trust. As such the Trust is not directly liable for, and does not record fees/settlements above the excess operated by the scheme. This information can be located on NHS Resolution's website at the following link; <https://resolution.nhs.uk/?s=Factsheet> therefore The Trust is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

4. The means of procurement – e.g. a direct award, competitive tender, framework (including which framework you used), etc.  
The Trust solicitors are a direct award via NHS Commercial Solutions Legal Services Framework, which is undertaken by East of England Procurement hub on the Trusts behalf. All of the companies in question two are under contract via the above framework.

**Section 21: Information accessible to applicant by other means.**

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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**Publication Scheme:**

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>