23 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ05642

Thank you for your request for information relating to Legal Spending.

Your request and our responses are outlined below:

Please could you provide me with the expenditures in each of the last five financial years on:

1. Your in-house legal team (if you have one). Please could this be given for each of the past five financial years?
2. Your external legal expenditure to include payments for external legal advisors or arms-length shared legal service team (if appropriate). Again, please could this be broken down for each of the past five financial years?
3. In relation to the external legal expenditure, please could you provide a breakdown for each of the past five years as to how much was spent per area of council business? For example: planning = £1,000, education = £2,000, HR= £1,000.

In response, please see attached spreadsheet.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance

Req05642 – Legal services data

Legal Services spend for financial years 2014 - 2018

1. The table below shows internal legal costs for the past five financial years.

Financial Year	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Grand Total £
Net Expenditure	2,505,164	3,093,422	3,064,127	3,130,712	2,969,164	#########
of which are External Suppliers (included in questions 2 and 3)	76,273	71,155	308,089	203,677	351,815	1,011,010
Expenditure excluding External Suppliers	2,428,891	3,022,267	2,756,038	2,927,034	2,617,348	#########

2. The table below shows a summary of external legal expenditure for the past financial years.

Financial Year	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Grand Total £
Total of external expenditure	325,096	198,715	409,585	416,414	712,709	2,062,520

3. The table below shows a summary of the legal external expenditure for the past financial years for all council departments.

Financial Year	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Grand Total £
Council Departments						
Business, Investment & Culture	1,100	0	0	0	56,078	57,178
Children and Young People's Services	0	0	0	9,625	0	9,625
Education and Skills	340	900	0	208	0	1,449
Place Directorate Management	95,089	23,439	1,635	20,722	3,500	144,386

Project Management and Property Services	58,902	6,842	45,658	111,017	209,767	432,186
Streetscene & Regulatory Services	32	0	0	0	0	32
Finance & Corporate Services	76,273	71,155	308,089	203,677	351,815	1,011,010
Transportation & Highways	93,361	96,378	54,204	71,165	91,548	406,655
Total of external expenditure	325,096	198,715	409,585	416,414	712,709	2,062,520