



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 091532  
Date            08 September 2015

### ***Legal Advice***

#### **Request:**

I am making this requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

How much money did the council spend on legal advice in 2014 and how much has it spent so far in 2015?

2014/15 Outturn £503,356

2015/16 Expenditure to date £86,029

Please note these figures are in respect of General Fund revenue expenditure only (i.e it excludes the costs of legal advice incurred by the Housing Revenue Account, Pensions Fund, Wolverhampton Homes and any legal fees incurred in the capital programme). In order to determine this information would require a full scale look into all invoices, extract and determine information. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
  - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
  - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

Also, what was the annual salary for your council's chief legal officer for 2014/15, and 2015/16 if it has been decided.

Part way through last year, following an organisational restructure, the Director of

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Governance (Chief Legal Officer) salary was set £103,350. It remains at this level in 2015/16.