

06/05/2026

NN-ICB/26-1566

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 6 April 2026, regarding general legal services expenditure. We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we partially hold the information requested.

Please find below our response to your request:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to expenditure on general legal services for each of the last three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25):

1. The total amount spent on external legal services and advice in each financial year.

[Please see table below.](#)

This information is publicly available and is published within the ICB's Annual Reports which can be accessed via the ICB's website - [Annual Reports and Accounts - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB](#).

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total amount spent on external legal services and advice	£280,000	£418,000	£448,000

2. A breakdown of that spend by category of legal work, for example (but not limited to):

- Employment law
- Contract and procurement law
- Information governance and data protection
- Property and estates
- Regulatory and compliance
- Governance and corporate law
- Other general legal advice

The ICB introduced a formal legal advice gateway process and central legal register in June 2025, which records the broad categories of legal support requested and supports oversight of legal expenditure.

As this process was not in place during 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, the ICB does not hold a breakdown of historic external legal spend by category for those years. To assist with this request, we can provide an overview of the broad categories of legal support typically obtained by the ICB, with illustrative examples (see table below). However, for the financial years requested, the ICB does not hold information that would allow external legal expenditure to be reliably apportioned across these categories.

Category	Examples of legal support
Care and funding decisions	Funding appeals, judicial reviews relating to individual care decisions
Employment and workforce	Grievances, employment tribunals, organisational change and restructuring
Contracts and Procurement	Contract disputes, procurement and commissioning advice
Information governance	Responses to complex Freedom of Information Requests, Subject Access Requests
External reviews and investigations	Coronial inquests, public inquiries, independent reviews
Property and estates	Lease obligations

3. Whether the organisation holds an in-house legal team, and if so, the total annual cost (salary and on-costs) of that team for each of the three years.

The ICB does not have an in-house legal team. Legal sits within the Corporate Governance Team and forms part of existing roles; there is no standalone team.

4. Whether legal services are procured via a framework agreement (e.g. NHS Shared Business Services, Crown Commercial Service), and if so, which framework.

Services have been procured via direct award under framework agreements. NHS SBS and CCS Frameworks have been used.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Director of Corporate Governance and Assurance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.