

Reference:	FOI.13075.23
Subject:	Legal fees spend
Date of Request:	6 November 2023

Requested:

Please provide the total amount spent on legal fees for the case which was in part brought under the Public Interest Disclosure Act (you do not need to separate the money spent on the whistleblowing element from the other heads of claim as I understand that would be impossible), since April 2012.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

As the information requested was not collated and recorded centrally prior to 2015, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of its employment tribunal cases/disputes prior to 2015, to identify any information that would fulfil your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and can confirm that the total spent on legal fees for employment tribunal cases/disputes under the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) is £29,760.00, during the 2015 to 2022 calendar years and 2023 to date.