

FOI Reference Number: FOI/026/1920

Date: 17 May 2019

Request:

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.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 17 April 2019.

Please find attached Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to legal expenditure.

1&2:

| Description | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| In-House Legal Costs | 0 | 0 | 46,233 | 161,120 | 228,119 |
| Judicial Review Legal Fees | 0 | 0 | 204,773 | 42,842 | 0 |
| External Legal Costs | 0 | 131,600 | 137,829 | 72,034 | 101,870 |
| | 0 | 131,600 | 388,835 | 275,996 | 329,989 |

3.

| Area of Council Business | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Corporate Services | 0 | 1,596 | 2,638 | 2,085 | 0 |
| Corporate Performance & Improvement (including In-House costs) | 0 | 19,963 | 58,697 | 163,013 | 228,488 |
| Strategic Finance | 0 | 8,085 | 57 | 580 | 15,969 |
| Operational Finance, ICT, Procurement & Governance | 0 | 647 | 713 | 1,000 | 32,622 |
| HR & Organisational Development | 0 | 15,060 | 5,879 | 6,401 | 17,454 |
| Community Planning & Development | 0 | 4,608 | 1,609 | 1,319 | 0 |
| Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing | 0 | 26,856 | 38,240 | 35,178 | 34,956 |
| Facilities & Waste | 0 | 17,020 | 9,764 | 6,601 | 500 |
| Parks & Open Spaces | 0 | 14,146 | 48,583 | 10,656 | 0 |
| Economic Development | 0 | 608 | 3,532 | 1,342 | 0 |
| Tourism, Arts & Culture | 0 | 1,579 | 1,561 | 1,879 | 0 |
| Planning & Building Control (including Judicial Review) | 0 | 21,086 | 216,078 | 45,857 | 0 |
| Regeneration & Strategic Projects | 0 | 346 | 1,484 | 85 | 0 |
| | 0 | 131,600 | 388,835 | 275,996 | 329,989 |

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/026/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.