



My Ref: FOI4768
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please provide information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about your use of external or independent investigators for workplace matters involving employees, such as grievances, disciplinaries, and bullying or harassment complaints.

Please exclude:

- Investigations into elected members
- Internal-only investigations (e.g. handled by HR)

The financial year is from 1 April to 31 March.

For the financial years:

- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25

For each *individual investigation*, provide:

1. Financial year

2. Total cost paid to the investigator (£) 3. Hours charged (if known) 4. Type of investigator:

- Freelancer
- Specialist workplace practice
- Employer's organisation
- Private solicitor/law firm
- Other (please specify)

Please present the data in a row-per-case format.

Preferred tabular format (e.g. spreadsheet or CSV), with each case on a separate line (not grouped by year).

Example format:

Financial Year	Cost (£)	Hours Charged	Investigator Type
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If this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise how it could be refined.

The council has procured the services of an external investigator for the period specified. The total figure is less than 5 separate instances; therefore I apply section 40(2) of the Freedom of information Act 2000, and may be in breach of principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 – lawfulness, fairness and transparency.

The total cost for external investigations during that period is £15,182.99

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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