

**FoI request re: Amount spent on legal fees for coroner's inquests**  
**Ref: 20-MBO-2212**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the amount spent on legal fees for coroner's inquests.

This was received on 24 November 2020 and has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access a large number of invoices and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all invoices and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

**Request:**

For the individual financial years 2012/13 through to 2019/2020 inclusive, how much was spent by your NHS Trust on legal costs for coroner's inquests.

This includes representation, preparation and counsel for staff appearing at inquests, as well as the money paid to legal firms for their time on inquest cases.

Could you provide this in an spreadsheet with the following cells:

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/20
Cost								

I hope you find this information useful. Please quote the above reference in any further communication on this matter.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or at the address shown below.

Yours sincerely

FOI Coordinator  
**Freedom of Information Office**  
Whittington Health  
Highgate Wing, Level 5  
Magdala Avenue  
London, N19 5NF  
[foi.whitthealth@nhs.net](mailto:foi.whitthealth@nhs.net)

Whittington Health NHS Trust

Chair: Baroness Julia Neuberger

Chief Executive: Siobhan Harrington

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If you are dissatisfied with this response, Whittington Health operates a complaints procedure, details of which can be found below:

**FOI Complaints:**

In the first instance, write to:

**Director Lead for Information**

**Governance**

Chief Operating Officer

Jenner Building

Magdala Avenue

London

N19 5NF

020 7288 5255

[foi.whitthealth@nhs.net](mailto:foi.whitthealth@nhs.net)

If you remain dissatisfied with the Trust's response, you may write to:

**Information Commissioner's Office**

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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