

Request title: Claims and Coroners

Date of Response: 9th February 2016

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

Pursuant to the Freedom Of Information Act 2000, please kindly answer the following questions:

1. How many members of staff are directly employed at the Trust at present as of 15 December 2015?
As of 15th December 2015 there are a total of 6764 staff directly employed by the Trust.
2. What was your external legal advice expenditure from 01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015?
£407,804.88.
3. What is your budget for external legal advice for the current financial year?
The Trust is unable to provide this information as it does not have a specific budget line for legal advice and thus the costs are only included as part of a series of larger budgets and it is not possible for them to be itemised out.
4. Please provide the list of the solicitors instructed for external legal advice from 01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015.
Please see the list below:
Beachcroft
Ashfords
Veale Wasbrough
Vizards
AQMEN Consultancy LLP
Bevan Brittan
DLA Piper
5. Please provide the full structure of your legal services team (titles of the positions- no names are required).
The Trusts Legal Services department consists of the following:
0.80wte Band 8c - Trust Solicitor
0.72wte Band 7 - Assistant Trust Solicitor
1.7wte Band 5 - Clerical / Administrative support
0.95wte Band 3 - Clerical / Administrative support
0.80wte Band 2 - Clerical / Administrative support
6. Please provide qualifications of the members of the legal department.
Band 8c and 7 – qualified solicitors
Band 5 – degree level
Band 2 and 3 – clerical and secretarial. Usual Trust requirements for standard education plus any typing/ secretarial qualification decided by the Department Manager to be necessary/desirable for the post.
7. How many active Coroner's Inquest cases are you managing at your Trust as of 15 December 2015?
54 active Coroners Inquests.
8. Please provide numbers of:
 - a) active clinical negligence claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims reported to the NHSLA)?

- 114 active clinical negligence claims reported to the NHSLA
- b) active clinical negligence claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims not reported to the NHSLA)?
- 140 active clinical claims not reported to the NHSLA
- c) active Employer's Liability claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims reported to the NHSLA)?
- 28 active employer liability claims reported to the NHSLA
- d) active Employer's Liability claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims not reported to the NHSLA)?
- Zero. The Trust reports all claims to the NHSLA.
- e) active Public Liability claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims reported to the NHSLA)?
- 9 active public liability claims reported to the NHSLA
- f) active Public Liability claims against your Trust as of 15 December 2015 (claims not reported to the NHSLA)?
- Zero. The Trust reports all claims to the NHSLA.
9. Please attach a relevant policy and a flowchart which describes the process of how your legal services department communicates the lessons learned from the claims and coroner's inquests to the relevant teams across the Trust, to ensure the effective risk management and prevention of similar incidents and to improve care provided.
- Please see the Claims Policy attached above.
10. Please provide two, most recent, claims management/ legal services reports.
- The Trust does not have an individual claims management / legal services report. This is included as part of the Trusts triangulation report. Please see the attached extractions relevant to claims from the two most recent reports above.