



[REDACTED]

28 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00276

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

1. *What is your spend with external law firms*
2. *Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymatrix, Mitratach etc.)*
3. *Who is your head of legal / general counsel*
4. *Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services*

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold the information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

1. *What is your spend with external law firms*

Under Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA information you have requested is already available in the public domain.

UKRI publish financial data, including spend on external law firms, as part of our commitment to transparency. This data is available to download on our [financial transparency page](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/what-we-do/financial-data/)¹. The expense type can be filtered in column 'D' to show 'Legal Fees'.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

2. *Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing*

No, we don't use eBilling technology to manage our law firms billing.

3. *Who is your head of legal / general counsel*

We are exempting the name of our Legal Director and General Counsel under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Disclosing this information would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/what-we-do/financial-data/>

4. *Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services*

Our procurement policy is 'framework first', so in the majority, if not all cases, we use the CCS framework: [General Legal Advice Services RM3786](#)².

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance


Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

² <https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/RM3786>