

Date: 30/06/2025
Our Ref: 10160
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LEGAL TEAM

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the legal team in NHS Lothian.

Questions:

1. Please provide the number of FTE employees who work in NHS Lothian's internal legal team, including all lawyers, solicitors, etc. in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.
2. Please provide the total amount spent by NHS Lothian on internal legal services, including the salaries of employees in the legal team, expenses, etc. in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not have an internal legal team employing lawyers and solicitors. The Central Legal Office, which is part of NHS Scotland, provides legal services for NHS Lothian and the other health boards in Scotland. They provide services for litigation, employment, commercial contracts and commercial property.

Question:

3. Please provide the total amount spent by NHS Lothian on external legal services in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.

Answer:

We have given the costs of the Central Legal Office rather than internal costs.
External legal costs are also shown in the table below.

	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
Amount spent on external legal services	£540,000	£716,000	£773,000
Amount spent on internal legal services CLO costs	£2,394,000	£2,450,000	£2,457,000

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive