



Homes England

Date: 3 June 2024

Our Ref: RFI4745

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[Redacted]
By Email Only

Dear [Redacted]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4745

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

- **What is your spend with external law firms (please provide for the last 4 financial years)**
- **Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymetrix, Mitratesh etc.)**
- **Who is your Head of Legal *or* General Counsel (please provide email address)**
- **Who is your Head of Procurement (please provide email address)**
- **Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services. Please provide details where possible.**

Response

We can confirm that we do hold the requested information. We will answer your questions in turn below:

- **What is your spend with external law firms (please provide for the last 4 financial years)**

Financial year	Spend
2020-2021	£10.33m
2021-2022	£10.13m
2022-2023	£12.56m
2023-2024	£16.68m





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- **Do you use eBilling technology to manage your law firms billing (e.g. systems such as Legal Tracker, Brightflag, Apperio, CT Tymatrix, Mitratesh etc.)**

We can confirm that we do not use any eBilling technology.

- **Who is your Head of Legal or General Counsel (please provide email address)**
- **Who is your Head of Procurement (please provide email address)**

Karim Nath is Homes England's General Counsel and Director of Legal Services. Mike Scott is Homes England's Head of Procurement.

We can inform you that we do hold the internal email addresses of the staff above. However, we rely on Section 40 (2) of the FOIA to withhold the information from disclosure.

Section 40 – Personal information

We are withholding some information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names, contact details, addresses, email addresses and personal opinions could lead to the identification of third parties and would breach one or more of the data protection principles.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means that we do not need to consider the public interest in disclosure. Once it is established that the information is personal data of a third party and release would breach one or more of the data protection principles, then the exemption is engaged.

The full text in the legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>





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Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to confirm that you can contact our teams via enquiries using the following email address:

enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk

- **Do you have a law firm panel / preferred supplier list / use a framework to buy your external law firm services. Please provide details where possible.**

We can confirm we do use a legal framework. You can access further details about the framework online here:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/81880382-c671-4d02-a935-f711a0f967cf>

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Information Governance Team
Homes England
Windsor House
6th Floor
42-50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL
United Kingdom

6th Floor
Windsor House
42 - 50 Victoria Street, Westminster
London, SW1H 0TL

0300 1234 500
@HomesEngland
www.gov.uk/homes-england





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Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.

You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team
For Homes England

