

E-mail:

06 December 2016

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI 2016-1053

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information about the amount of money the council spent on the services of external law firms and barristers over the last two years (years ending March 31).

The council does hold information within the definition of your request.

Question: I would like to know the amount of money the council spent on the services of external law firms and barristers over the last two years (years ending March 31). If this is not possible within the restrictions of the Freedom of Information Act, one year of data will suffice.

Response:

Our response below has been provided following a review of the budget codes used to allocate this type of spending.

For the financial year 2015-16 the figure is £701012.48

For the financial year 2014-15 the figure is £927804.53

Please note the Council has also been involved in some extraordinary litigation over recent years, which due to its unusual nature was allocated its own budget code. The cost of this litigation has therefore not been included in the figures above.

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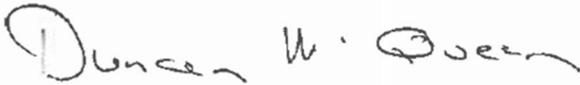
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If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has responded to your request you can request an Internal Review. If you would like to request a Review please contact the Information Governance Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Further information can be found on the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/council-democracy/accesstoinformation/internalreviewscomplaints.asp>

Yours sincerely,



Senior Manager – Performance and Risk