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| <b>FOI REF:</b>       | 14696      |
| <b>RESPONSE SENT:</b> | 12/09/2024 |

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. How many employees are part of your legal team?
2. Do you use external sources for legal advice and if so, what is the average monthly spend on external resources?
3. Do you use a legal research platform and if so, how much do you spend per month on this platform?
4. Who is responsible for the legal costs associated with the above questions?

**Response:**

1. 12 full time posts and 4 part time posts. Some posts are currently held by agency staff and there are 3 vacant posts.
2. Specialist Counsel plus external solicitors used where necessary. We do not hold average figures for monthly spend and are unable to provide an average – as no timescale is given.
3. Yes- approx. £1,750 per month.
4. The budget holder is the Director- Legal.

