

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay



NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Office

Westmorland General Hospital

Burton Road

Kendal

LA9 7RG

Tel: 01539 715285

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Web: www.uhmb.nhs.uk

Reference Number: 5568

Date: Friday 12th February 2016

Name: James Titcombe

Email: request-313409-e8f9c467@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear James

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOI Act)

I refer to my letter dated 1st February and I am now able to provide the following response to your request.

You asked us to supply the following information: Our replies appear in bold type below.

You would like us to inform you of the total expenditure of the Trust in relation to the Inquest of your son, Joshua Titcombe.

The total recorded expenditure was £35,103.00 – not including VAT.

You asked us to breakdown the costs as follows:

External costs (e.g. costs paid Hill Dickinson and any other external organisation relating to the Inquest).

The costs billed to the Trust by Hill Dickinson from the date of instruction (16.4.10) to the conclusion of the inquest hearing (6.6.11) total £34,094 plus VAT. This covered inquest preparations but also all work relating to such preparation, which included a comprehensive review of all the material available in relation to the care of Joshua and the reviews that had taken place since his death (this was necessary to ensure all relevant material was disclosed in the inquest process).

Internal costs - e.g. man hours spent on Inquest preparations and response, including by the communications team.

The Trust do not, and did not keep records of time spent on tasks such as Inquest preparations, including by the communications team.

Trust Headquarters:
Westmorland General Hospital
Burton Road
Kendal
LA9 7RG
Tel: 01539 732288

CHAIR: PEARSE BUTLER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE: JACKIE DANIEL

From memory, I am able to recall that I spent approximately three days at the inquest. I also believe that our Communications Officer spent the week at the inquest.

- **Communications Officer. 1 week salary costs to the Trust would have been £546.**
- **The cost to the Trust for Head of Communications for 3 days would have been £463.**

This is an estimate for the time two members of the Communications team spent at the inquest.

If you are unhappy with the way the Trust has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review by contacting: Phil Woodford, Associate Director of Corporate Affairs, Westmorland General Hospital, Burton Road, Kendal LA9 7RG.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

I hope this information has answered your question. If you require any further clarification or assistance regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information office on 01539 715213. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Kind regards

Phil Woodford
Associate Director of Corporate Affairs