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Via Email

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Date 23.08.16

**Our reference:** CW/FOI-10599

**Your reference:** Rupert Pumpkin

Dear Mr Pumpkin

**Freedom of Information request - 84(1) Report on legal services purchases**

Further to your Freedom of Information request please see the responses annotated to your individual queries below.

1. *"Under Regulation 84(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, there is an obligation to create a report on every over-threshold public contract and framework agreement entered into. Please provide every Regulation 84(1) report relating to the council (and any subsidiary or agent acting on its behalf) purchasing legal services since 1 March 2015. Please count any framework of contract which the council is party to within the scope of this request."*

**Information not held**

For clarity since 1st March 2015 the Council has awarded a single Framework for the provision of Legal Services that was valued in excess of the relevant Threshold. However this award was not subject to the requirement to comply with Regulation 84 in relation to the creation of the requested report due to the application of Regulation 118(3) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

2. *"How many purchases of external legal services has the council made since 1 March 2015?"*

**Information Held**

The Council made 564 purchases of external legal services from 1 March 2015 to 31 July 2016. (NB: it should be noted that this figure includes instances of multiple payments of legal services on the same matter; it does not refer to the number of individual cases or matters on which external legal services were commissioned.)

3. *“What is the total value of the council's purchase of external legal services since 1 March 2015?”*

### **Information Held**

The total spend on external legal services in the period referred to above was £940,044.90.

It should also be noted that the responses to 2 and 3 exclude the external legal fees incurred by the Council's Insurance Section.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Please send details of your request for review to the following address:

Information Governance Coordinator  
Newcastle City Council  
Room 17  
Civic Centre  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8QH  
Phone: 0191 277 7666  
Email: [freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk)

If you are still unhappy with how we have handled your request following our internal review you can complain to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Phone: 0303 123 1113  
Email: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely  
By Email  
**Craig Winter**  
**Senior Solicitor Legal Services**