

Our Ref: 001287/18



Jo Harding,

Information Access Team
01483 630007

By email:

[request-525306-e33f5dc4@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

25 March 2019

Dear Jo Harding,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 001287/18

I write in connection with your request for information received on 10 October 2018.

I apologise for the late response to your request; the delay in processing has been due to unprecedented levels of requests that has resulted in a backlog – I regret that we had not kept you updated during this time, and hope that this has not caused you too much inconvenience. You had asked for:

Information requested covers each of the past five years.

- 1) Does Surrey Police, or Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, have a contract, or contracts, with any legal firms for services to be provided to either Surrey Police, or Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner?
- 2) Which legal firms hold contracts with either of these bodies?
- 3) When did the contracts commence and what work do they cover?
- 4) How much as either Surrey Police, or Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, paid to any legal firm in each of the past five years?
- 5) Have any legal actions been taken on behalf of Surrey Police, or Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, by legal firms in each of the past five years? What was the nature of any work carried out by an outside legal firm?
- 6) Were the contracts put out to tender? How many firms were approached and sent estimates?
- 7) Has either body used the services of Weightmans LLP, and, if so, when were these services provided and at what cost?

Response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified within a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact, b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) state (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information that you have requested is held in part:

A1. Yes

A2. Weightmans LLP

A3. Contract Start Date: 01/04/2016 – provision of Legal Services. For a more detailed overview, please see the 'Police' section of their website:

<https://www.weightmans.com/sectors/emergency-services/>

A4. Legal costs, by financial year:

F/ year	£
2014/15	767,822.49
2015/16	474,874.13
2016/17	146,775.07
2017/18	272,545.36
2018/19	948,414.71

A5. Please note that we only hold records for the last 3 years – During this time no legal actions have been taken by Surrey Police or the Surrey OPCC. By 'legal actions taken' we have interpreted this to mean the issuing of civil or JR proceedings; no such proceedings have been issued or served.

A6. Yes; this contract was put out to Tender via EUSupply (bluelight portal) and published on "Tenders Electronic Daily" and "Contracts Finder". There were 45 expressions of interest noted, with 7 tender submissions received.

A7. Yes; see answers to Q2, Q3 & Q4.

In addition to the above, we would seek to clarify that prior to April 2016, the provision of Legal Services was provided in house.

Surrey Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. How to do this is set out in the attached Appeals Notice. Having followed the full procedure, if you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give your case consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Surrey Police. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact us on 01483 - 630007 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Neil Coventry
Information Access Team Decision Maker