

11th March 2014

I write following your FOI request dated 6.2.14 which you sent to Cleveland Police. Cleveland Police then transferred this to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to respond to you. Following this I now write to answer your query in which you request;

Please send the following information by email to the address shown above.

Supply details of all expenditure by the PCC on solicitors, legal advisors and barristers since taking up his post.

Please include details of who supplied the services, their status (solicitor or barrister etc) and whether they were employed directly (employee) by the PCC or provided services as an external company/provider.

Also include all cash settlements made in legal proceedings involving the PCC.

This request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Regarding your request I can now inform you that I have completed my enquiries and that my reply on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is as follows.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (OPCC) does hold this information.

I will answer your request in two parts. The first part is to inform you that the PCC does have an in-house solicitor provision, and as they are employees I will provide you with an aggregate figure for expenditure since the PCC was elected. Due to the Data Protection Act 1998 and as they are employees, I will not be providing their personal details. The in-house provision also included legal work undertaken on behalf of the Chief Constable and is not recorded and held separately. Therefore since taking up the post of PCC, I can inform you that for the total provision of legal work undertaken, a total of £119,473 has been expended on the in-house solicitor provision.

In addition to this the PCC has used the services of other external legal advisors. To that end I am refusing this aspect of your request under s21 of the FOIA, inasmuch as the information is accessible by other means.

Section 16 of the FOIA informs that it is good practice to provide advice and assistance to those requesting such, and I can inform you that the information you seek can be found at the following web address;

<http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/Financial-Information/Expenditure-over-500-pounds.aspx>

The persons used for these services were Mr Samuel Green and Mr Paul Greaney QC from New Park Court Chambers, Leeds. You will find details of their financial transactions with us at the above web address. For ease you will find them under the Service Unit – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There have been no cash settlements made in legal proceedings involving the PCC.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland has a complaints procedure.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to: Chief of Staff, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland,

Police Headquarters, Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough, TS8 9EH or you can follow the complaints procedure found on our website at: www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

John Bage
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland