

FOI ref 6259

Response sent 02 December 2019

(SCDC) Legal Department

Please supply information that you hold to us under the Freedom of Information Act 2000- on the following;

- a) whether the council has a i) legal department or ii) a shared legal department
- b) the person in charge i) or ii)
- c) the number of solicitors 1) practising and 2) non-practising that are employed in i) or ii)
- d) whether the legal department farms any work out
- e) if work is farmed out to who in i) 2017, ii) 2018 and iii) 2019
- f) what is the criteria for farming work out
- g) what is the hourly rate a solicitor employed is charged at to a third party
- h) what is the hourly rate an in house employed solicitor is paid by the council, and how the rates differ from a grade A to D I hope the following will answer your query:

- a) whether the council has a i) legal department or ii) a shared legal department

South Cambridgeshire District Council uses a shared service via 3C's Shared Legal Service which covers Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, more information can be found on our [3C Shared Services website](#).

- b) the person in charge i) or ii)

Tom Lewis, Head of Legal Practice

- c) the number of solicitors 1) practicing – and 2) non-practising that are employed in i) or ii)
 - 1) practicing – 7 and
 - 2) non-practising 5

d) whether the legal department farms any work out - yes

e) if work is farmed out to who in i) 2017, ii) 2018 and iii) 2019 –

Varies depending on matter type but we are signed up to 'EM Lawshare' which is a framework of solicitors who offer preferential rates

f) what is the criteria for farming work out – capacity, but more usually lack of expertise within the practice on a specific area of law

g) what is the hourly rate a solicitor employed is charged at to a third party -
£150

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h) what is the hourly rate an in house employed solicitor is paid by the council,
and how the rates differ from a grade A to D –

We work on a consumption based billing system where we receive an annual budget from each council and hours are consumed from within that budget at a rate of £78

We aim to provide a quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response, however if you have any questions please contact us.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@scambs.gov.uk