

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to respond to your request [REDACTED] [REDACTED] April 2016. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can confirm that it holds the data that you requested.

In the last 5 years between January 2011 and December 2016 inclusive:

- a) the Trust's total spend on services by DAC Beachcroft LLP and its predecessor firm Beachcroft LLP (whether these relate to legal services, investigations, training, sub-contracting consultants or investigators or any other services) was £1,332,913.88.
- b) DAC Beachcroft dealt with 3 matters which specifically involved staff who had made public interest disclosures. The total spend on these cases was £24,537.50 which equates to 1.8% of the total spend at a) above.

In respect of any cases outside of these 3, it is not possible to confirm whether they involved staff members previously made public interest disclosures. This is because public interest disclosures could be made to third parties without the Trust knowing. This is the case even in relation to disclosures made under the Trust's Whistleblowing policy as the disclosure could have been made verbally or in some other format that has not been retained as part of an individual's personnel record.

Under the FOIA, information does not have to be disclosed if it cost more than £450 to identify, locate, retrieve, and extract the information requested. The FOIA legislation requires us to cost our time at £25 per hour, which means that the £450 limit is reached if it would take us more than 18 hours to identify, locate, retrieve, and extract the information. We estimate that it will take well in excess of 18 hours to review the personnel records of every employee that has raised a claim or which DAC Beachcroft LLP has advised to establish whether it contains any information relating to whether or not that individual made a public interest disclosure. Therefore, this information is exempt from disclosure under the cost of compliance exemption (section 12).

- c) None of the 3 cases referred to above ended in dismissal of the staff concerned.
- d) In the last 5 years, DAC Beachcroft and Beachcroft LLP have handled 2 compromise/settlement agreements for the Trust.
- e) Millard solicitors.

Please note that on 1 November 2011 the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH) merged with the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust (NOC) to form the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH). Our response reflects these changes. Therefore, we consider that Oxford University Hospitals Trust has released to you all of the information that it holds in relation to your request.

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request you can ask for an internal review by writing to:

██████████ Director of Assurance, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way,
Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU.

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: 0303 123 1113 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Provision of this information does not constitute permission for its commercial re-use in terms of the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. You are free to use the information for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. The information may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use will require permission from the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Yours sincerely,