



Our ref: 80718593  
14 January 2026

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## Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear ###

We have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

### Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information.

For the period 1 January 2020 to the present date, please confirm the total gross external spend incurred by the authority in each of the categories listed below.

A single total figure for the whole period is sufficient.

If easier, the information may instead be provided as annual totals by financial year.

Expenditure categories  
Consultancy and advisory services: All external consultancy or advisory spend, as recorded by the authority, including management, strategy, transformation, policy, or specialist advisory services.  
Legal services: All external legal spend, including solicitors, barristers, litigation, claims, and legal advice.  
Recruitment, agency, and interim services: External recruitment agencies, executive search firms, interim placements, and related fees including spend on agency or temporary staff supplied by third-party providers.  
Other external professional services: All other external professional services not included above, as recorded by the authority (e.g. audit, accountancy, communications/PR, design, research, IT or technical advisory services).  
Staff training and development (external): External spend on staff training, development programmes, conferences, courses, or professional accreditation (excluding internal staffing costs).  
Marketing, advertising, and publicity (external): External spend on advertising, marketing, publicity, campaigns, media buying, branding, or promotional activity (excluding

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staff costs). Office accommodation and facilities management: Spend on office accommodation and facilities, including rent, maintenance, utilities, estate management, and related property costs.

Clarification to minimise effort

This request is for high-level aggregate figures only. I am not requesting transaction-level data, invoices, supplier lists, or service-by-service breakdowns.

The information may be provided using existing central finance records, cost codes, or budget headings. No apportionment, reconciliation, or manual collation across departments is required. Where categories are not held exactly as described, the closest available aggregate figure is acceptable.

Please provide the information in any simple tabular format.

## Response

Please see below table.

| FOI Category                                     | Sum of 2020-21 | Sum of 2021-22 | Sum of 2022-23 | Sum of 2023-24 | Sum of 2024-25 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Consultancy and advisory services                | 17,713,227     | 17,489,239     | 10,228,653     | 8,006,420      | 8,554,698      |
| Legal services                                   | 5,421,338      | 9,621,500      | 9,612,085      | 19,543,912     | 23,368,016     |
| Recruitment, agency, and interim services        | 76,885,846     | 92,041,333     | 124,273,773    | 135,182,371    | 136,002,403    |
| Other external professional services             | 32,473,465     | 49,853,727     | 35,555,234     | 29,152,936     | 21,722,827     |
| Staff training and development (external)        | 2,782,186      | 4,733,151      | 3,910,111      | 4,218,827      | 3,462,061      |
| Marketing, advertising, and publicity (external) | 1,870,832      | 2,020,350      | 4,450,612      | 1,250,602      | 359,064        |
| Office accommodation and facilities management   | 73,654,350     | 85,724,180     | 96,522,362     | 104,628,185    | 83,203,941     |

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|             |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Grand Total | 210,801,24<br>5 | 261,483,48<br>0 | 284,552,83<br>1 | 301,983,25<br>4 | 276,673,01<br>0 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Please quote the reference number 80718593 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response. Please outline which part of the response you are not happy with setting out your reasons. This request should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team  
PO Box 16366  
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B2 2YY  
Email: [infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

We will now close your request as of this date.

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