

Ref no: 140280314
From: Press
Date: 28/03/14
Subject: Legal Services

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Please can you tell the amount of money the trust paid to the solicitors firm Hill Dickinson relating to a dispute with the St Helens Reporter newspaper over an article the newspaper published in February this year about salaries at the trust.

Please can you provide a breakdown of the fees, ie how much was charged for each instruction and what the firm was instructed to do.

This should include how much the firm charged for writing to newspaper before publication and prior to publication. Can you also tell me how much the hospital paid the law firm to make a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission about the newspaper relating to the above article?

Can you also tell me the name and position of the employee who signed off engaging the solicitors to act for the trust in this dispute?

Response –

Legal professional privilege ensures that the communications between solicitors and its clients remain strictly confidential. This is a fundamental principle of English Law.

This principle relates to all communications and their content and in accordance with section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act we will not be releasing any information in relation to our dealings with legal companies.

In addition please note that the Trust also considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43.2 of the Freedom of Information Act as to release specific costs and breakdowns requested would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.