

Environmental Standards Scotland  
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Standards Scotland  
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

Alasdair Dewar  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[foi@environmentalstandards.scot](mailto:foi@environmentalstandards.scot)  
0808 1964000

[REDACTED]

Response Date 08/12/2022

Our ref: ESS.FOI.005

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email on the 30 November 2022 to Environmental Standards Scotland requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information which you request is as follows:

### Request

1) The total spend, broken down by financial or calendar year, on external legal advice since April 1, 2020. (I.e. 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 to date)

1a) Please break this down by the list of associated cases or disputes, and their individual cost.

1b) If possible, please provide the final settlement or damages or other court mandated payment cost for any cases during which external legal advice was sought. If it is not possible to link each case to a settlement agreement, please provide the total cost of the settlements or payments.

### Response

ESS vested on 1 October 2021. It therefore did not exist as an independent public body before this date.

1. The total spend on external legal advice is
  - 1 April 2020- 31 March 2021 Nil
  - 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 Nil
  - 1 April 2022 – date of the request £4993.20.

1 a) The breakdown is only relevant for the period from 1 April 2022. ESS has obtained external legal advice in relation to the following matters

Data processing agreement £516  
General advice - £3338.40  
Data sharing advice -£1138.80

1 b) The final settlement or damages or other court mandated payment cost for any cases during which external legal advice was sought is nil.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response by writing to:

Mark Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environmental Standards Scotland  
Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HD  
Email [foi@environmentalstandards.scot](mailto:foi@environmentalstandards.scot)

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the due date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

[Appeal to the Commissioner | Scottish Information Commissioner \(itspublicknowledge.info\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/itspublicknowledge/info)

Yours sincerely,



Alasdair Dewar  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Environmental Standards Scotland