

[REDACTED]

13 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_19-067)**

Thank you for your request of 27 February 2019 for the following information:

*'I'm interested to know the amount the University has spent on external legal support for inquests into the deaths of students or staff where it is a party to proceedings.*

*How much in pounds sterling has the University spent on external legal support since 2014, by year, up until the latest date for which data is available?*

*How much of this amount has been spent on work relating to coroner-led inquests?*

*For clarity, legal support could include, for example, the hiring of a barrister, solicitor, paralegal or legal assistant who is not ordinarily employed by the University.'*

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold any of the information requested.

Regarding student deaths, we can confirm that our Student Support Services have not directly engaged legal support in relation to any inquest process. In terms of legal support that may have been sought by other University departments, we do not record whether an invoice included legal fees related to inquests for staff or student deaths, as our finance systems do not allow for the separation of this information from other legal fees. Additionally, invoices from law firms may not detail specific cases due to the sensitive nature of the situation involved, therefore we believe we would not be able to obtain the requested information from these records.

We are sorry we cannot provide the data you requested, but trust this letter explains our position. If you are unhappy with our response, you have the right of appeal against this decision. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 40 working days of the date of this letter. In line with section 5.3 of the UK Government's Freedom of

Information Act Code of Practice, we are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

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Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty McDonald  
Information Compliance Assistant  
University of East Anglia