

**From:** [Mary Birch](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information Act request - legal fees - RESPONSE  
**Date:** Monday, 8 December 2014 17:09:19

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[REDACTED]

Further to your information request of 11 November 2014 in respect of legal fees, I am now able to provide a response.

You requested:

*"1. How much money has Hamilton City Council spent on legal fees in the past four years dated from October 9, 2010 to October 31, 2014? I would like these figures broken down on a yearly basis.*

In the first instance, I would draw your attention to the information provided on a quarterly basis to our Finance Committee. This information has been provided to the Committee for a number of years and is in a public report.

The total spend by Financial year on legal fees are:

***Legal Consultant Spend By Financial Year***

<b>Period</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012	\$ 1,789,334.93
1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	\$ 1,688,760.57
1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014	\$ 2,383,132.21
1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014 YTD	\$ 611,312.00

This information has also been provided as part of your request on overall consultant spend.

I enclose a link to the last report for your information [Procurement Report Finance Committee - 20th November 2014. Item 12 Page 117.](#)

*2. Can you please itemize what these amounts were spent on? I.e. legal advise on fluoride.*

This information has been withheld under the following sections of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – in that

Section 7(2)(g) – release would prejudice the maintenance of legal professional privilege.  
Section 17(f) –the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

*3. Can you detail who provided the legal advice - which legal firms?*

I refer you again to the following link [Procurement Report Finance Committee -20th](#)

[November 2014. Item 12 Page 125.](#) This regular report contains the information relating to which firms have provided legal advice to Council.

If you have any concerns with the decisions referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. For your information, the Ombudsman's contact details are:

**Email:** [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

**Post:** PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143

**Telephone:** 0800 802 602

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

*On Behalf of the Privacy Officer*

**Mary Birch**

Team Leader | Democracy

DDI: 07 838 6772 | Email: [mary.birch@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:mary.birch@hcc.govt.nz)



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**From:** Mary Birch

**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 7:53 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Official Information Act request - legal fees

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to acknowledge your information request of 11 November 2014 in respect of legal fees.

Please be advised that your request has been passed on to the relevant teams within