

Our Reference: 2712

05/02/2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry: High Level Gross External Spend

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, which was received on 08/01/2026.

Your request was:

"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

- 1. Consultancy and advisory services: All external consultancy or advisory spend, as recorded by the authority, including management, strategy, transformation, policy, or specialist advisory services.*
- 2. Legal services: All external legal spend, including solicitors, barristers, litigation, claims, and legal advice.*
- 3. 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. .*
- 4. 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).*
- 5. Staff training and development (external): External spend on staff training, development programmes, conferences, courses, or professional accreditation (excluding internal staffing costs).*
- 6. Marketing, advertising, and publicity (external): External spend on advertising, marketing, publicity, campaigns, media buying, branding, or promotional activity (excluding staff costs).*



7. 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."

This request was handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can confirm that the Combined Authority holds some of the information covered by your request and some of the information covered by your request is exempt under Section 12(1) of the FOIA. Please see below the requested information in tabular format.

FOI Category	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Grand Total
1. Consultancy & Advisory	£16.1m	£60.1m	£64.3m	£140.5m
2. Legal services	£1.1m	£1.7m	£0.7m	£3.5m
3. Recruitment, agency & interim	£88k	£510k	£1.2m	£1.8m
4. Other external professional services	£433k	£1.9m	£1.2m	£3.6m
5. Staff training & development (external)	£94k	£384k	£254k	£732k
6. Marketing, advertising & publicity (external)	£1.4m	£8.7m	£3.6m	£13.7m
7. Office accommodation & facilities management	£3.3m	£12.3m	£7.7m	£23.3m
TOTAL EXTERNAL SPEND	£22.5m	£85.6m	£79.0m	£187.2m



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

We have provided the information available from our current system covering financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 to date. If this partial dataset meets your needs, no further action is required.

The gross external costs have not been provided for 2020/21, 2021/22 or 2022/23. This information is exempt under Section 12(1), where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. It is estimated that it would take greater than 18 hours of staff time to retrieve and format the requested data from the Combined Authority's legacy system.

If you do require data from 2020-2023, please do submit a refined request that narrows the scope sufficiently to bring it within the appropriate limit or please contact us at freedom.info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk if you wish to discuss this further.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

freedom.info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk