

Dear FOI Team,

Please could you assist in the following:

1. Which department or departments are responsible for overseeing legal affairs when your council is a party to a legal Hearing e.g. Legal Services, HR? Legal hearings such as those brought against the council – (high court, criminal proceedings), or more internal matters eg. Employment Tribunal

i. Please can you provide the name and contact details of the people overseeing this department(s)?

ii. Within this department(s), please, can you provide the details of staff who are responsible for day-to-day managing of the following legal areas; Commercial Litigation, Crime, Crime-Fraud, Employment, Intellectual Property, Litigation General.

2. Which department or departments are responsible for managing/supporting staff who are giving evidence at a legal hearing i.e. providing time off to attend court or providing support with training.

i. Please can you provide the name and contact details of the people overseeing this department(s)?

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request.

The Councils Response is as follows:

1. The Council's Legal Service, which sits in the Chief Executive's Department, is responsible for most legal service provision within the Council. They provide advice and support to all of the Council's Departments and services and may seek specialist external advice from external legal firms or barristers as appropriate. The Council's Trading Standards Service, which sits in the Place Department also has some direct responsibility for legal matters relating to their service area but will also seek advice from the Legal Service where appropriate, including advocacy support from barristers. Legal advice is provided to the relevant Departments who are responsible for the overall service delivery of services within their areas.

- (i) Heather Dickinson, Group Manager for Legal, Democratic and Complaints is the head of the Legal Practice at the Council and is responsible for the Legal Service. She reports to Marjorie Toward who is the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Service Director for Customers, Governance and Employees. Heather's contact details are: heather.dickinson@nottscc.gov.uk whilst the monitoring officer can be contacted through monitoring.officer@nottscc.gov.uk . Mark Walker is the Group Manager for Trading Standards and Communities and can be contacted through mark.walker@nottscc.gov.uk
- (ii) All litigation work (except relating to some trading standards legal work) is managed on a day to day basis by Geoffrey Russell, Team Manager for Litigation which covers each of your areas listed in (ii) except Intellectual Property, which falls within the Corporate and

Environmental Law team which is managed on a day to day basis by Sorriya Richeux who is the Team Manager.

Any Department which runs services may have staff who are required to give evidence at a legal hearing and they would be primarily responsible for their support and training but services may seek assistance from colleagues in Legal Services, as appropriate. Please see the link <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-structure/the-councils-structure> to the Public Website for details of all publicly named senior staff for each Department of the County Council.

I hope this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

In addition to this and for future reference Nottingham County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link) <http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you wish to raise any concerns about the way your request was dealt with, then please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference number above.

Kind Regards

Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer.
Complaints and Information Team
Chief Executive's Dept
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP