

## 55276 Public Law Family Court Proceedings - Expert Witnesses

Regarding the Council's expenditure on expert witnesses in public law family court proceedings.

Please provide the following information for 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (from 01/01/25 until 16/05/25, or when you choose to respond to this):

The total amount spent on expert witnesses in public law family court proceedings (e.g. care proceedings under the Children Act 1989) by City of Edinburgh.

The figures provided below include instruction of experts prior to, and during public law family court proceedings.

2022 – £34,107.97 (including VAT)

2023 – £44,657.68 (including VAT)

2024 – £19,785.50 (including VAT)

2025 – £18,686.79 (including VAT)

A breakdown of the types of experts instructed (e.g. psychologists, psychiatrists, independent social workers, medical professionals, etc.) and the total spend per category.

All experts we have instructed from 2022 to 2025 have been psychologists. This includes four clinical psychologists and one child psychologist.

A list of the top 10 experts or expert firms by total spend between 2022 and 2025 (inclusive). Please provide the name of the expert or firm where this does not breach the data protection exemption as well as how much was spent on each individual or firm. If this breaches a cost exemption, please only disclose the top 5 experts.

Five expert witnesses have been instructed in this period as follows:

1. Kee Consultancy - £43,120.80 (including VAT)
2. Clinical Psychologist - £28,671.18 (including VAT)
3. Clinical Psychologist - £17,985.76 (including VAT)
4. Reynolds Associates - £16,834.50 (including VAT)
5. Clinical Psychologist - £10,625.70 (including VAT)

We are unable to provide the names of individual expert witnesses as we consider this to be their personal information. The release of such data would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018.