

63849 ASNT references

I would be grateful if the information could be made available for 2 separate time periods: 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025, and 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026 ("the specified time periods").

I request the following information from the authority:

The total number of ASNT references received by the authority for the specified time periods. This should include the following matters:

Placing request references.

Co-ordinated Support Plan references.

Disability Discrimination claims.

Transitions references.

Upper Tribunal relating to ASN matters including permission to appeal applications.

2024-2025: 17.

2025-2026: 28.

The total number of ASNT references in which the authority instructed external solicitor firms and/or Counsel to act on its behalf for the specified time periods. This should include the following matters:

Placing request references.

Co-ordinated Support Plan references.

Disability Discrimination claims.

Transitions references.

Upper Tribunal relating to ASN matters including permission to appeal applications.

2024-25: 7.

2025-26: 19.

In respect of request 2 above, the names of the external solicitor firms instructed and the total number of cases they were instructed in for the specified time periods.

3. Harper Macleod LLP for all references in the requested timeframes.

In respect of request 2 above, the total number of cases in which Counsel were instructed in for the specified time periods. For the avoidance of doubt, we would be grateful for a breakdown of whether Counsel were instructed in addition to an external solicitor firm.

2024-2025: 1 case not in addition to an external solicitor firm.

2025-2026: 1 case not in addition to an external solicitor firm and 2 cases in addition to an external solicitor firm.

In respect of request 2 above, a breakdown of the total amount of public money spent by the authority on instructing external solicitor firms and/or Counsel for the specified time periods. For the avoidance of doubt, we would be grateful for a breakdown for each firm/Counsel instructed if there is more than one.

2024-2025

External solicitor firm - £93,126.50

Counsel - Nil

2025-2026

External solicitor firm - £62,582

Counsel - £15,150

We will not provide a breakdown for individual Counsel instructed.

The withheld cost is not in the public realm and by releasing this information there would be a negative impact on the Counsel as other law firms would have an insight to their competitor's rates they would not previously have had. This would provide other law firms with an unfair advantage when competing for similar legal representation.