



Our ref.
Your ref.
Contact
Direct Line 01606 868
Date

Mr A Price
FBU
Cheshire Brigade Chair

Dear Andy,

Freedom of Information Request

Firstly, may I extend my apologies for the time taken to provide you with a response to your initial request. You will recall that we have spoken on a number of occasions about this request and I have explained the difficulties encountered in obtaining the information.

Firstly, the good news; I have been able to track down the invoice in respect of Cheshire's share of the legal costs relating to Retained Firefighters and their access to pension costs. As you will see from the attached invoice, Cheshire paid £926.08 excluding VAT (VAT is reclaimable by the Authority).

Unfortunately however, despite best endeavours, I have been unable to identify any payment Cheshire made in respect of legal costs relating to co-responder. As this issue dates back some time, the Officers who dealt with this matter have long left the Service and without any indication of amount, payee, time or the text of the invoice (if one was ever paid) I have been unsuccessful in my search. We know that the solicitors involved are Beachcroft Wansboroughs, but there is no record of any direct payment to them.

Rather than delay my response to you any longer, I have decided to write to you now, but also to assure you that we will continue to explore any other means of identifying any payment Cheshire made in relation to the legal costs of co-responder.

I hope that this is helpful, but if you do have any further queries, please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Griffiths
Head of Finance and Governance