

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27332**

*As part of my research, I want to gather data on how much Local Authorities and Health Boards spend on legal fees associated with welfare Court of Protection cases.*

*By ‘welfare’ cases, I mean any cases before the Court of Protection which are not about a person’s property and affairs (or a property and affairs deputyship on its own). They could include matters about where a person lives, who they have contact with, any possible deprivation of liberty, medical treatments, welfare deputyship applications, and other welfare matters.*

*The question I would like to obtain data for is as follows:*

*1. How much did Suffolk County Council spend in total on legal fees for external lawyers on welfare Court of Protection cases in the following financial years:*

- 1. 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024*
- 2. 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025*
- 3. 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026*

*The total spend on legal fees for external lawyers on welfare Court of Protection cases in the 2025/26 financial year was £55,758.10.*

*This figure relates to the 27 welfare cases Suffolk County Council have been able to identify within the 18-hour limit under the Freedom of Information Act; to provide further information would likely take us over the limit.*

*It has not been possible to provide figures for other years due to a change in case management system.*