

**From:**

**Sent:** 17 February 2016 15:38

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Request

Dear Sir or Madam,

Do you hold information of the following description and would you be so kind as to communicate it (preferably electronically) to me pursuant to s.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000?:-

1. Over each of the last 5 years (that is, calendar, or if you prefer, financial, years) to which 5 sets of barristers' chambers ("the Top 5 Chambers") have you sent the most sets of instructions to members of those sets of chambers for that year, whether directly through 'in house' lawyers or indirectly through external solicitors;
2. In relation to each of the last 5 years, of each of the Top 5 Chambers, the total number of sets of individual instructions sent to their members, whether directly through 'in house' lawyers or indirectly through external solicitors;
3. In relation to each of the last 5 years, of each of the Top 5 Chambers, the total amount of money **excluding value added tax** that you have paid to their members during the above period, whether directly or indirectly through external solicitors;
4. In relation to each of the last 5 years, of each of the Top 5 Chambers, the smallest and largest hourly rate charged by *junior* counsel (**excluding value added tax**) in each of those sets of chambers and the smallest and largest hourly rate charged by *leading* counsel (**excluding value added tax**) in each of those sets of chambers;
5. In relation to instruction of counsel (whether directly through 'in house' lawyers or indirectly through external solicitors), any written policy you have in relation thereto;