



Freedom of Information Request 160/16
Response date: 6th April 2016

I wish to know the following information from South Wales Police regarding its legal services and appearances in civil proceedings:

1. Regarding defending civil proceedings brought by members of the public against South Wales Police, or the bringing of civil proceedings by South Wales Police, does South Wales Police instruct its own in house South Wales Police lawyers or outside private firms?
2. If it instructs outside private firms, which firms are employed?
3. In particular, if it instructs Dolmans of Cardiff, under what legal authority or justification, are they instructed as opposed to South Wales Police in house lawyers?
4. In particular, if it instructs Dolmans of Cardiff, is there a specific appointment or delegation of legal services to act on behalf of South Wales Police?
5. If so, when was this made?
6. If so, what is the text of this delegation or appointment?

RESPONSE

Question 1

The Chief Constable of the South Wales Police utilises the services of Joint Legal Services a collaborative unit between South Wales and Gwent Police. Joint Legal Services deals with civil proceedings brought against the Chief Constable. The Chief Constable therefore utilises his own in house lawyers and they will, where required, instruct Counsel. External solicitors are instructed by our insurers to deal with motor claims and have historically dealt, on occasion, with other types of claims on behalf of the Chief Constable.

In addition, the Special Legal Casework Unit (an in house legal team) are instructed to represent the Chief Constables of South Wales Police and Gwent Police in significant cases these cases are dealt with in house by the specialist team. On occasion and subject to terms of relevant insurances policies and demand a limited number of cases are outsourced.

Question 2

At present no outside solicitors firms are instructed in relation to cases handled by the Joint Legal Services Unit. The Special Casework Unit have a small number of cases in which external solicitors are instructed. Dolmans Solicitors of Cardiff are instructed in relation to a historical set of claims and Weightmans Solicitors are instructed in relation to a recent claims.

Question 3

Dolmans of Cardiff remain instructed in historical cases as per the terms of the insurance agreement and the insurance operating arrangements in place at the relevant time.

Continued...

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Question 4

There is no specific appointment or delegation. Please see the answer to 3 above.

Question 5 and 6

Not applicable

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