

17 September 2025

Legal fees

1: The total amount the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has paid in legal fees to external law firms and/or counsel for the purpose of defending litigation brought by Trust staff members?

2: Please provide figures for each of the last financial years 2021/22. 2022/23, 2023/24 and if available 2024/25 to date.

3: If possible, within the cost limits, please break this down by

a: Employment tribunal cases

b: High Court/County Court cases

c: Any settlements where legal fees were specifically recorded separately.

For clarity, I am not seeking details that would identify individual staff members or cases - only the spend on legal fees defending such claims.

Please note that this relates to Junior and Senior Counsel fees only. The Trust has an SLA with Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) within BSO for the provision of legal services and any work in defence of all legal and litigation cases is covered under this SLA and the specific amounts attributable to individual cases or category of case is not available.

Counsel Fees	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
High Court/County Court cases	27,488	98,791	95,900	120,351
Employment tribunal cases	8,130	69,590	8,350	163,750
Total	35,618	168,381	104,250	284,101