

Health Professions Council
Council 11th May 2006

PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

A paper on the provision of legal services was presented to the Council on 2nd March 2005. The Council decided that the policy for the provision of legal services should be reviewed in May 2006.

An updated copy of the paper is attached.

The paper identifies twelve types of legal services required by the Health Professions Council (HPC). In the financial year 2006/2007 the HPC is forecast to spend 14% of its operating expenses on legal services supplied by external contractors. The majority of these legal costs are spent firstly with Kingsley Napley in relation to Fitness to Practise tribunals and secondly with our Parliamentary Agents Bircham Dyson Bell. The HPC does not employ in-house lawyers.

The paper proposes to continue the policy. However, it is recommended that competitive tenders should be sought for the provision of services in relation to Fitness to Practise tribunals and Parliamentary Agents and that the exercise is concluded by 31st March 2007.

Decision

The Council is asked to consider whether the provision of the legal services required by the HPC should continue to be supplied as detailed in the attached paper and consider the questions set out in the paper. The Council is also requested to approve that:

An Invitation To Tender document will be prepared and issued seeking the provision of the services of firstly a Parliamentary Agent and secondly the provision of legal services associated with HPC's Fitness to Practise processes.

That the exercise is completed so that contracts can be approved by the Council before the start of the 2007 - 2008 financial year on 1st April 2007.

Background information

None

Resource implications

Financial implications

14% of operating expenses in the FY 2006/2007.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Policy for the Provision of Legal Advice paper.

Date of paper

27th April 2006