

9th February 2015.

Mayor & Members,

I refer to the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. S. McGrath on the Council Agenda for the meeting on the 9th of February 2015:

“To request a report outlining the total cost to Cork County Council from the employment of external consultants for the year 2014. The figure should include all professional consultancy fees paid to non Council employees, including amounts paid on projects funded by Government grants. Separately, to outline the amounts spent on external legal services for the years 2012, 2013, 2014.”

Report

Under the Accounting Code of Practice there is a category of expenditure titled Consultancy and Professional Fee payments. The total expenditure charged to these categories is outlined as follows:

€6.8million for 2014 in respect of Consultancy fees –detailed below:

HOUSING & BUILDING	341,615
ROADS TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY	3,143,197
WATER SERVICES	5,342
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	976,708
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	718,626
RECREATION & AMENITY	329,880
AGRICULTURE EDUC & H/S	232,254
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,052,915
Overall Total	6,800,537

This amount is made up of capital expenditure of €4,259,615 and revenue expenditure of €2,540,921.

The total amount spent on legal services in 2012, 2013 and 2014 was as follows:-

2012:	€1,152,330
2013:	€1,073,265
2014:	€ 913,044

The total spend on Consultancy and Professional Fees (incl legal services) in 2014 was €7.71M out of an overall spend of approx €312M.

The reduction in professional/technical staff resources of 37%, from 586 in 2008 to 369 in 2014, has impacted on how the Council carries out its business. Consultants are needed to ensure that the Council can meet the deadlines set by Government Departments to access exchequer funding.

Roisin O' Sullivan,
S/Head of Finance