

Information Released under Freedom of Information

Subject: Trade Union Business Information

Date Released: 16/10/2024

Summary of request:

1. The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:
 - space measured in square feet
 - how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)
 - whether a professional valuation of the market rental value of the space has been sought either in-house or externally, and if so, what the valuation of the space was
 - any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions.
2. Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)? If so, do you charge a fee to the trade unions concerned for providing this service?
3. With regard to trade union facility time, please provide the total cost of facility time from your pay bill for the financial year 2023/24 and the budget for the current financial year. Please also advise the current number of employees that you fund to be union officials, measured as full time equivalents? (For guidance on definitions please refer to the Government's Transparency Code for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015/local-government-transparency-code-2015>)
4. Please advise any estimates for other costs met for those staff on trade union facility time apart from salaries - including travel expenses, office supplies, telephone expenses and energy bills.

Information Released:

1. The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:
 - space measured in square feet – **202 square feet.**
 - how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business) – **None.**
 - whether a professional valuation of the market rental value of the space has been sought either in-house or externally, and if so, what the valuation of the space was - **No professional valuation has been carried out.**
 - any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions. – **None.**

2. Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)? If so, do you charge a fee to the trade unions concerned for providing this service? – **No.**

3. With regard to trade union facility time, please provide the total cost of facility time from your pay bill for the financial year 2023/24 and the budget for the current financial year. Please also advise the current number of employees that you fund to be union officials, measured as full time equivalents? (For guidance on definitions please refer to the Government's Transparency Code for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015/local-government-transparency-code-2015>) –

The total cost of facility time data is collated on an annual basis. We hold the information from the last collection of data, on 25th April 2024, which was £59,878.59.

Budget for the current financial year 24/25:

Staff costs - £100,904

Travel and subsistence - £204

Office space - £12,922

FTE for current employees who are union officials – 1.66. In order to provide advice and assistance, this is the FTE as time spent only on trade union activities.

4. Please advise any estimates for other costs met for those staff on trade union facility time apart from salaries - including travel expenses, office supplies, telephone expenses and energy bills. –

Travel and subsistence expenses – £298 for the 23/24 financial year

Office supplies – We do not hold.

Telephone expenses – We do not hold.

Energy bills – We do not hold.

Office Space – £13,345 for the 23/24 financial year