



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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Freedom of Information request reference number: 9136.1

Date of response: 28 October 2024

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.*

Response:

Please see our response to your queries in turn below:

1. *The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:*

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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.*

There are no current licences to occupy in respect of Trade Union bodies use of the LFB's estate.

It is not prescriptive in LFB's requirement to provide office facilities to support Representative Bodies. Requirements are dependent on application from Trade Union representatives if, or when, required to the Person in Charge of the premises. GMB and Unison (FRS union representatives) have access to an office in one Fire Station on a nonexclusive basis.

2. Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)?

Yes

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.

The total cost of facility time for the trade union representatives for 2023/24 is published online via the London Datastore and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/lfb-trade-union-facility-time-granted>

The Brigade does not have a separate budget for the overall paid trade union facility time and costs are absorbed within the overall staff budget.

Please also advise the current number of employees that you fund to be union officials, measured as full time equivalents?

The Brigade funds 3.5 trade union official posts, further details are published online via the London Datastore and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/lfb-trade-union-facility-time-granted>

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.

The Brigade does not estimate these costs separately and, therefore, does not hold this information.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#).