

Reference Number: FOI202425/278
From: Private Individual
Date: 07 October 2024
Subject: Trade unions

Q1 The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:

- a. space measured in square feet
- b. how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)
- c. 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
- d. any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions.

A1

- a. One office provided - 123.6 ft²
- b. This is entirely held within existing buildings.
- c. No valuation has been undertaken with regards to just this space, we only value the whole of the hospital.
- d. There is no individual council levy on the union office as it is within existing hospital buildings

Q2 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?

A2 Payroll deducts unions subscriptions. As with other payroll deductions no charge is levied.

Q3 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>)

A3 As per our statutory return the cost of facility time for 2023/24 was £40,037. Reflected as a WTE this is 1.02.

Q4 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.

A4 Information not held - the Trust cannot provide the information as requested as we cannot break down whether it is expenses paid on Trade Union time, only the total expenses paid.

Please note the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) gives rights of public access to information held by public authorities. This right covers all recorded information held by a public authority; public authorities only have to provide information they already have in recorded form; they do not have to create new information or provide estimated information.