

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/359  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 07 October 2024  
**Subject:** Trade Union office accommodation details and associated costs

**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) 4m x 2.30m (measurement has been provided in metres)  
b) It is a room within a building accommodating other corporate functions.  
c) Not applicable as it is part of an occupied, Trust owned building.  
d) Not applicable, as per A1c)

**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** Yes, we do. There is no charge to the trade unions.

**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** Total cost of facility time - £68,826.10  
Budget for current financial year 2024/25- £35,964  
Total full time equivalent (FTE) number of representatives- 24.05

**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.