

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Please provide 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 your organisation levies for office space given to trade unions.

ANSWER:

Please find below the buildings for trade union business and the information on each you have requested in the above question.

Pilot House – Not the sole occupant of the building

2006 sq.ft.

Unit 4 (Ground floor).

Market rent @ £9,000 per annum exclusive (approx.).

There are no charges levied for their occupation.

2228 sq ft

Unit 3b (Basement)

Market rent @ £6,700 per annum exclusive (approx.).

There are no charges levied for their occupation.

Alliance House – Not the sole occupant of the building.

Part of first floor

578 Sq ft

Market rent @ £3,200 per annum exclusive (approx.).

There are no charges levied for their occupation.

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.

Leicester City Council does not pay for travel expenses for Trade Unions. In relation to the other expenses Leicester City Council does not keep a central record of these expenses. We would have to go into each record separately and this would take over the 18 hour time limit.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

Travel expenses are met through the Trade Unions themselves. The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.