

Ref: FOI/2024/10170

Date Received: 7th October 2024

Response Due: 4th November 2024

Date: 30th October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 7th October 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 1. 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**
20m² (215.278 sq ft).
 - b) how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)**
None.
 - 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**
No.
 - d) 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?**
Amicus Unite the Union - 2.5%
GMBATU - 5%
Unison – 2.5%

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 Trusts facilities time reporting is available in both our annual reports and on the government website. The Trust does not have a separate budget for facilities time. The Trust supports representatives to have reasonable paid time for union matters.

Therefore, a search for the information has now been completed within the Trust the information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it via the following link: <https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/annual-report-and-accounts>

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.** Unison pay all travel costs for their representatives and purchase most of the office suppliers for the Unison office, with the exception of the photocopier machine, photocopier ink, telephone and energy costs.

The Trust is unable to separate the photocopier machine, photocopier ink, telephone and energy bills for Unison representatives from the overall Trust usage.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111