

Ref. No: 1248
Date: 08/10/24
Subject: Trade unions

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

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**

Whiston Hospital site

The office accommodation allocated for Trade Union business is 230.348 sq ft (21.4 m sq).

Ormskirk Hospital Site

The office accommodation allocated for Trade Union business total 276.95sq ft (25.73 m sq).

- **how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)**

This space is contained within an existing building which holds a number of different departments

- **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.**

A professional valuation of the market rental value has not been undertaken

- **any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions.**

The council do not levy any charges to the Trust

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?

Yes, we deduct subscriptions via payroll.

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>)

This information can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections>

There is no budget amount specified for 2024/2025 . The Trust partnership agreement provides for reasonable time off for union duties.

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 Energy cost have been calculated at £26.54 sq meter per annum as per the Trusts Estates Return Information Collection which is submitted annually to NHS Digital.

There are no telephone expenses.