

Dear

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email dated 13 September, which was received by the Greater London Authority on 13 September.

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. The square metres of office space which were converted to residential units in London using permitted development rights in 2016, 2017 and 2018, broken down year-by-year.

Response: Please see information attached (in Word format as requested) that was recently published on the GLA website in the London Plan Examination in Public Library, Document Reference: NLP/EC/025 - see link below.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/examination-public-draft-new-london-plan/eip-library>

The tables show office to residential changes of use through permitted development rights (PDR) prior approvals granted between 01/04/2013 and 31/03/2018 broken down by financial year.

2. In a press release in 2016, GLA said how many people could have potentially lost their jobs if this office space had been converted (<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/protection-for-small-businesses>). Could you provide the same figure for the period 2016, 2017 and 2018, broken down year-by-year i.e. the number of people working in offices which were converted to residential units.

Response: The precise number of actual jobs at risk is not known. In the 'Notes to Editors' in the 2016 press release it stated that "There is approximately 1.5 million square metres of office floorspace that could potentially be lost in prior approvals. Using the assumption of one job per 16 square metres, this equates to space for 93,750 jobs...". The newly published data indicates that there is approximately 1.9 million square metres of office floorspace that could potentially be lost in prior approvals granted between 01/04/2013 and 31/03/2018. Based on the data in the tables attached and using the same assumption of one job per 16 square metres of office floorspace, this would equate to space that could potentially accommodate approximately 119,000 jobs in total, broken down by financial year (FY) as follows:

FY2013: 19,600
FY2014: 45,500
FY2015: 25,500
FY2016: 15,900
FY2017*: 12,800

*Data for the 2017/18 financial year was still being finalised at the time the data was extracted. Data for the Financial Year 2018/19 (FY2018) will not be available until September 2019.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, ensuring that you quote the reference in the title of this email.

Yours sincerely

Senior Strategic Planner
London Plan team
Greater London Authority

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the

complaints procedure, available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>