

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA281117-5969

29 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## Freedom of Information Act request

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 28 November 2017.

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we can today provide you with a response to your request. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Your request asked for the release of the following information:

- 1. How much money is spent by the council, or by contracted caterers, on disposable plastic-lined coffee cups, and how much did these purchases cost? I would like this information broken down by year for the past three financial years (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17).**

The Greater London Authority's catering contractor spent the following on disposable coffee cups in the public cafés at City Hall and Trafalgar Square:

Disposable Coffee Cups	
Financial Year	Value (net)
2014/15	£7,167.52
2015/16	£7,387.69
2016/17	£7,615.05

Our disposable cups are recyclable and we have recycling bins within the café. We offer a 10p discount to anyone who brings their own cup to the public café at City Hall.

Disposable cups are not used for hospitality services provided by the Authority, eg. coffee served at meetings.

**2. How much money is spent by the council, or by contracted caterers, on disposable plastic cutlery, and how much did these purchases cost? I would like this information broken down by year for the past three financial years (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17).**

The Greater London Authority's catering contractor spent the following on disposable cutlery in the public cafés at City Hall and Trafalgar Square:

<b>Disposable Cutlery</b>	
Financial Year	Value (net)
2014/15	£2,615.46
2015/16	£2,828.61
2016/17	£1,601.54

Our disposable cutlery is recyclable and we have recycling bins within the café. Since January 2018 it is only available on request for take away meals. Staff are encouraged to use reusable metal cutlery. We are currently also investigating more sustainable alternatives for use with takeaway food. Disposable cutlery is not used for hospitality services provided by the Authority, eg. coffee served at meetings or buffet lunches.

**3. Does the council intend to continue purchasing disposable coffee cups and plastic cutlery?**

As the Greater London Authority café caters to the public, it offers customers who wish to take food away, the option of using disposable cutlery, rather than taking re-usable metal items and then throwing them away. We promote the use of re-usable items but intend to continue to provide more sustainable disposables for items that are taken away.

**4. Does the council have recycling facilities in its district that have the capability to recycle the specific coffee cups and plastic cutlery purchased?**

The Greater London Authority's waste management supplier has the capability of recycling the disposable coffee cups and cutlery that are used.

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Chris Harris  
Support Services Manager