

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA280519-3514

18 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 28 May 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for:

First, any documents from this year (2019) produced by your local authority outlining planning or preparations for the upcoming exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Second, any risk registers or risk assessments that mention Britain's upcoming exit from the European Union made or used by this local authority in 2019.

Our response to your request is as follows:

We have estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Section 12 of the Act provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the cost of determining whether we hold the information, locating and retrieving it and extracting it from other information would exceed the appropriate limit. The Fees Regulations stipulate that this limit is £450; calculated at £25 per hour for every hour spent on the activities described and equates to 18 hours of work.

The terms 'any documents' and 'any risk assessments' on the topic of Brexit is broad and it would take significant time to determine what if anything the GLA held. The GLA is a strategic authority and therefore potentially many teams – including Housing, Land, Environment, Skills and Employment, Regeneration, Business and Economy, Resilience and Education and Health – might hold information referencing Brexit.

Each item would need to be examined to see if it falls within scope of your request and whether any exemptions to disclose would apply. In addition, any information the GLA might hold is

unlikely to exist in isolation and could form part of a wider body of work, therefore time will need to be factored in to identify where the information exists and extract it from other non-Brexit related information. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism at our disposal to perform an automated search for relevant information. Therefore, it would be likely to take at least 30 members of staff at least one hour each to perform the above actions.

We have therefore refused this request under the cost limit provisions of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act and this letter therefore constitutes a refusal notice under section 17(1) of the Act.

I can inform you under our duty to advise and assist, that Brexit risks are mentioned on the corporate risk register:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/london-prepared/identifying-risks-london>

Brexit related risks also feature in our quarterly performance reports (see GLA group monitoring reports):

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=130>

You may also find the following report of interest:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_resilience_partnership_-_brexit_resilience_report.pdf

If you would like to submit a further request to the GLA, you will need to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold, for example, if there is a specific document you are interested in. Please note any narrowed request will be treated as a new request for information for consideration under the Act. You may find information already disclosed and published on our FOI disclosure log of interest (select Business and economy);

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information/foi-disclosure-log?topic=1402&order=DESC>

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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>