

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA170719-7831

12 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 17 July 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. *What allowances or budget for personal grooming and clothing was there for the Mayor of London in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19? For example, any appointments at beauty salons, spas, or any items of clothing, shoes or accessories.*

None

2. *Did the Mayor of London employ any person to assist with styling and grooming in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19? What was the cost of the employee(s) during this period?*

No

3. *How much was spent on staff away days in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19? Please disclose the location, activities and dates. This applies to all full and part time staff members of the Greater London Authority.*

We do not have a central accounting code for staff away days. We have estimated that the cost of complying with the second part of your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" specified in the Freedom of Information Act.

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 stipulated limit is £450; calculated at £25 per hour for every hour spent on the activities described and equals 18 hours of work.

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.

It is difficult to advise on a way to narrow the scope of your request because most of the knowledge on an away day would be based locally within individual teams (bearing in mind some teams have been restructured over the years and members of staff responsible for organising an away day may have left the organisation).

There are also number of ways in which payments are likely to have been made, for example suppliers offering facilities such as training or venue hire are unlikely be set up as a vendor on our SAP system and therefore payment may have taken via a corporate credit card or by a personal credit card and then claimed through expenses. Perhaps if there is a specific team you are interested in then we could use that as a represented example?

We publish decision forms for all non-routine expenditure over £10,000:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/good-governance/decisions?order=DESC>

All GLA expenditure over £250.00 is published online here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/spending-money-wisely/our-spending>

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA170719-7831.

Yours sincerely


Information Governance Officer

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>