

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA061118-7067

12 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 6 November 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

- 1) Please tell me the allocated budget that was spent on Christmas decorations and lights in your council for 2017.*
- 2) Please tell me the allocated budget to be spent Christmas decorations and lights in your council for 2018.*
- 3) Please tell me whether you will fail to provide Christmas lights for 2018 due to budget restraints.*

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request:

- 1) Please tell me the allocated budget that was spent on Christmas decorations and lights in your council for 2017.*

The GLA is responsible for City Hall, Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square Gardens. The Authority facilitates the installation of the Oslo Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square each year. The costs associated with the installation of the tree and the lighting ceremony are shared between the GLA and Westminster City Council. The lighting event is paid for and managed by Westminster City Council, including the ceremonial switching on, so we do not hold information about the costs of the ceremony. The GLA spent £25,921 for the crane, installation and de-rig of the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree in 2017. The GLA also have a Christmas tree in the reception of City Hall, the cost for this was £430.75 in 2017.

- 2) Please tell me the allocated budget to be spent Christmas decorations and lights in your council for 2018.*

The GLA is London's strategic government and does not operate in the same way as local authorities and you would need to contact the individual local Borough Councils to enquire

about lighting that they have organised in their areas: <https://www.london.gov.uk/in-my-area>. Some other displays are organised and paid for by businesses and business associations.

The budget for the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree for 2018 is £52,000, approximately 50% of this will be reimbursed by Westminster City Council for the lighting ceremony. The budget for the City Hall reception Christmas tree is £441.52

3) Please tell me whether you will fail to provide Christmas lights for 2018 due to budget restraints.

No - The Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is decorated in traditional Norwegian fashion, with festoon lighting - amounting to almost 900 energy-efficient light bulbs. The festoon lighting was purchased by the GLA several years ago and is re-used every year.

The GLA bears the costs for the electricity used on the Square including for the Christmas tree festoon lighting. However, the energy usage for the lights is not monitored separately so the GLA does not have records of the specific electricity costs connected with the Christmas lights. The lights are fitted with a timer to minimise energy usage and costs.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA061118-7067.

Yours sincerely



Facilities Manager – Hard Services
Facilities Management Unit

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>