

#6342

The Greater London Authority's response sent 16 August 2016

1. Do you have any rules or policies for all the international business travel expenses? i.e. any limit amount that you may spend or just said not too luxurious etc.. Do you try to settle reducing the expense cost lower as possible?

There is guidance for all City Hall staff regarding travel and expenses, which is attached. We try to secure best value for money.

2. How do you choose the travel agency and interpreters? Are there any contract conditions for the travel agency and interpreters? Do you choose by bidding? How do you decide to make a contract? By their competitive price (cheaper the better)?

The Mayor's Office use a variety of suppliers to secure best value for money for Mayoral trips, including online price comparison operators, travel agencies and the Foreign Office overseas procurement framework. The interpreters' service for the Mayor's visit to Japan, for example, was procured through the British Embassy Tokyo's network of suppliers.

3. If we ask the mayor office in Tokyo to disclose us the detailed international travel expenses, they need about 2 weeks to prepare the disclosure documents after we made "the information disclose request". What do you think for this system? And how does it work in your case? Do you also take such a long time like 2 weeks before you disclose or you are always ready to disclose the information immediately?

The Greater London Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which allows anyone to write to us and request information. If we do have the information then we must respond to the person and provide the information as soon as possible and within 20 working days.

You can read more about the Freedom of Information Act on the Information Commissioner's website - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/what-is-the-foi-act/>

4. We may not access to the detailed contract information between the Mayor office and the travel agency as long as the Mayor office hides the whole information in Tokyo. Does it happen in your city too? Or are you able to disclose the detailed information?

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, the Greater London Authority must disclose any recorded information unless the request is too costly or unless a specific exemption can be applied. The Information Commissioner's Office has a useful page about costs and exemptions at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-request/>

5. When Mr.Masuzoe, the ex-Mayor of Tokyo, travelled to London for his business trip, he flied on the first class costed about £17,000 and he spent about £1,210 per night for his suite room stay. When the Mayor Johnson visited Japan, he flied on the business class costed about £4,200 and he used his own points to fly back to London. He spent about £190 per night for his stay. What do you feel to Mr.Masuzoe when you see such a difference in their expenses etween the both Mayors of the city?

It is not appropriate for us to comment on this particular question.

6. What do you think for leaving EU as a London city? AND 7. Any worries that foreign companies would leave?

The Mayor's response to the EU referendum result can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-of-london-response-toeu-referendum-result> and he has recently launched a campaign called #LondonIsOpen (<https://www.london.gov.uk/content/londonisopen>)

8. Would Mr.Boris Johnson be a right person to be a next Prime Minister candidate?

It is not appropriate for us to comment on this question

9. When Mr.Johnson met Mr.Masuzoe in 2013, did he receive any art gifts?

You can find a list of gifts and hospitality for the Mayor and all City Hall staff at <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/goodgovernance/gifts-and-hospitality>. There are gifts from Mr Masuzoe registered for 2015 but none for 2013.

Additional information can be found on the archived GLA website -

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20151229121822/http://www.london.gov.uk/people/mayoral/boris-johnson-mp/gifts-hospitality>

10. Could you tell us how do you relate to Mr.Johnson? (i.e. Are you a secretary or...)

[] and I are members of staff at City Hall. [] works in the International Relations team and I work in Information Governance.