

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA240220-3506

18 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 22 February 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

What was the total cost of the mayor's visit to Brussels for his meetings with EU officials on Tuesday 18th of February ?

How many of the Mayor's staff accompanied him on his trip?

How many hours of staff time in the Mayor's office were spent on arranging the trip and escorting him on the visit?

Given the potential impact on London's world leading financial and professional services, technology and life sciences sectors from regulatory divergence between the UK and the European Union (EU), the Mayor has committed to stand up for London's interests in each phase of the negotiations.

As such, the Mayor visited Brussels on 18 February to discuss the status of the negotiations and to ensure that London's interests are placed at the forefront of these discussions. During his visit, the Mayor met with some of the EU's most senior leaders, including the European Commission's lead negotiator, Michel Barnier; the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli MEP; Guy Verhofstadt MEP; and Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans. The Mayor also met with the UK Ambassador to the EU, Sir Tim Barrow.

The total cost of the visit to the Greater London Authority was £1,055. This was for four Eurostar tickets, a sandwich lunch, and tickets for the Brussels Metro. To keep costs down, the Mayor travelled between venues and meetings by Metro or by foot only.

The Mayor was joined by his three members of staff from the Greater London Authority – the Mayoral Director for External and International Affairs, the Senior Communications Adviser and the Principal International Relations Officer.

We do not track and log staff hours in the manner you have requested. The visit was project managed by the Principal International Relations Officer, who continued to work on other ongoing projects and initiatives in the lead up to this visit.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA240220-3506.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[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>