

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA281119-7977

9 January 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FOI request: Christmas decorations**

Thank you for your request for information about Christmas decorations, which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 28 November 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*Please could you provide the costs incurred by the council, where relevant, for the following across the authority.*

- 1. Christmas lights*
  - 2. Christmas decorations*
  - 3. Installation of lights and decorations*
  - 4. Light switch on events, including celebrity appearances*
  - 5. Christmas events*
- Please only provide details of costs met by the council.*

*Expected layout:*

*Cost of lights and decorations - £xxx.xx*

*Installation costs - £xxx.xx*

*Switch on event costs - £xxx.xx*

*Please provide all this information for the following years*

- 1. Christmas 2015*
- 2. Christmas 2016*
- 3. Christmas 2017*
- 4. Christmas 2018*
- 5. Christmas 2019*

Our response to your request is as follows. Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request.

## **Questions 1-4 (lights, decorations, installation, switch-on events)**

The only costs that the GLA incurs are for facilitating the transportation and the installation of

the Oslo Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square and for the Christmas tree for City Hall reception area.

Costs incurred by the GLA for the transportation and installation of the Oslo tree Trafalgar Square tree are as follows:

2019 - £24,353.98  
2018 - £22,362.90  
2017 - £23,741.46  
2016 - £22,988.13  
2015 - £18,578.93

Costs for the Christmas tree in the reception area at City Hall are as follows. In 2019 the contract for office plants, including the Christmas tree, was retendered. The contract was awarded to the company which offered the best value overall.

2019 - £1,236.00  
2018 - £441.52  
2017 - £430.75  
2016 - £420.25  
2015 - £410.00

## **Question 5 – Events**

The Mayor's annual public Christmas Carol Service (Southwark Cathedral)

Dec 2019 - Financial year 2019-20 - £21,938\*  
Dec 2018 - Financial year 2018-19 - £20,474  
Dec 2017 - Financial year 2017-18 - £19,799  
Dec 2016 - Financial year 2016-17 - £19,944.69  
Dec 2015 - Financial year 2015-16 - £11,067.41

\*Please note that the final budget for 2019 has not been fully reconciled at time of request.

We have interpreted part 5 of your request to be about public events related to celebrating Christmas or related to Christmas decorations or lights e.g. switching-on events.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA281119-7977.

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>