

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA230718-8402

22 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 22 July 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for;

Copies of any emails mentioning the Trump baby blimp or relating to the authorisation or discussion of the Trump baby blimp, including those which feature Emma Strain, [REDACTED] the Mayor or any member of the Mayor's team.

Please find some of the information within scope of your request. Please note that some names of members of staff are exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information could potentially identify specific employees and as such constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

Some further emails relate to an earlier request for information on the same topic and this response has already been published with the information within scope. Please see GLA disclosure log at;

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information/foi-disclosure-log/foi-trump-baby-blimp-permissions>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information/foi-disclosure-log/foi-trump-blimp-balloon-costs>

Some further information which falls within scope of your request has been withheld from disclosure under Section 38(1)(b) – endangering the safety of any individual. The information relates to event management measures (including risk assessments). Section 38(1)(b) of the Act is duly engaged because of the potential risk to public safety as set out in the Act.

Under FoIA the 'public interest' is not the same as what might be of interest to the public. In balancing the public interest in disclosure, we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole if the information is released or not. The 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public.

There is a clear public interest in the release of information that helps demonstrate the work of public bodies involved in public event planning. To help facilitate this understanding, there is a justifiable public interest in placing into the public domain information that would allow the public to assess the nature of the discussions that take place, the advice that is given and the manner in which is presented. Transparency of these decision-making processes will generate confidence in the integrity of the procedures involved

The GLA is also mindful of the assumption in favour of disclosure in 2(2)(b) the FOIA. Considerations favouring non-disclosure; Conversely the disclosure of this same information would increase the risk incidents at an event if made public and seen by those intent on causing harm. It is not in the public interest to release information that could be directly used to harm or plan harm to the public.

The information withheld from disclosure is not key to understanding the event itself, and may be replicated in part for administering future events. We have determined that safeguarding the safety of the public attending the events is of paramount importance.

The public interest favours maintaining the exemption provisions of s.38(1)(b) in relation the redacted and withheld information.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA230718-8402.

Yours sincerely

Paul Robinson
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>