

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA101219-8731

9 January 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI Request

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 9 December 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

"I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request a detailed breakdown of funding awarded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to the British Fashion Council (BFC) for the biannual London Fashion Week (LFW).

I am only requesting information on funding spent on LFW specifically and not to any other BFC projects or endeavours.

I request information for the most recent Fashion Weeks, in February 2019 and September 2019. If this information is not available please supply the most recent data.

My preferred format to receive this information is electronically, but if that is not possible I can accept hard copies or inspect the record. Please send me any information as it becomes available, rather than delay the request until all the information can be collated. In order to assist you with this request I am outlining my query as specifically as possible:

For the biannual London Fashion Weeks, in February and September 2019,

- 1. How much money was awarded by the GLA to the BFC for London Fashion Week?*
- 2. What was this funding spent on? Please give an allocated breakdown with as many specifics as possible.*
- 3. How much GLA funding is spent on the British Fashion Council designers' party at LFW and/or its respective parties in Paris, Milan and New York?*

4. What are the criteria that the BFC has to meet in order to receive funding? Please supply the written criteria for the funding allocation. Please be as specific as possible. For example, if it is 'promoting British fashion', does this mean fashion designed and manufactured here? What constitutes "British"?
5. What other public costs are there for hosting LFW in addition to the money given directly to the BFC? Please give a breakdown and cost, for example road closures, emergency services on standby, venue hire, fees to organisations, airport security, travel expenditure, etc.
6. Does the GLA need a certain cost return/benefit to be made from its funding allocation to the BFC? If so how much? (For example, if there needs to be a cost benefit ratio of £XX for every £X spent. Or if the LFW would need to generate £XX amount of sales from the event. Or another quantifiable metric.)
7. How does the GLA ensure that the criteria for the BFC receiving funding is met?
8. How is the BFC audited to ensure that they are spending correctly and that their accounts and figures are accurate?
9. Are there any other ethical, legal or fair practice standards that the BFC needs to meet in order to receive GLA funding, for example model welfare, fur-free status, environmental protection? If so, how are these standards audited to ensure they are adhered to?
10. Does the BFC qualify for any tax exemptions or charitable status? Please explain which ones, and why.
- Where this information is difficult to obtain in whole or in part please supply as much relevant information as possible"

Our response to your request is as follows:

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

1. How much money was awarded by the GLA to the BFC for London Fashion Week?

The UK fashion industry contributes £32 billion and 890,000 jobs to the UK, with much of the fashion industry based in London. The GLA's consistent support to the British Fashion Council across the last ten years delivers a range of programmes to grow the fashion industry and develop London's global position.

In 2018-19 the GLA funded the British Fashion Council with a grant of £649,000; this grant has remained the same since 2015. The grant is core support for the British Fashion Council and the organisation allocates funding to the activity that delivers the objectives set out in the GLA's funding agreement.

2. What was this funding spent on? Please give an allocated breakdown with as many specifics as possible.

This annual grant goes towards the delivery of a range of programmes and outcomes each year including:

- £112m in orders achieved in 2018-19, including a target of £1.2M in orders for emerging designers, generated through London Fashion Week and London Fashion Week Men's.
- Bringing 1,000 international buyers to London Fashion Week and London Fashion Week Men's through the International Guest Programme;
- Supporting 100 fashion small businesses to develop their businesses, showcase their products and increase their exports;
- Supporting emerging design companies to achieve sales and exports through the London Fashion Showcasing Fund;
- Supporting diverse new talent through the NEWGEN programme for emerging fashion designers, which supports them to show at London Fashion Week or London Fashion Week Men's;
- Promoting health and wellbeing for models during London Fashion Week through its Model Health Programme;
- Supporting delivery of Education Foundation Scholarships to MA and BA students;
- Supporting delivery of the British Fashion Council Colleges Council programme for fashion graduates and students;
- Supporting delivery of Fashion and Business Saturday Clubs providing free training to 14-19 year olds; and
- Supporting the development of new apprenticeships for the fashion industry.

3. How much GLA funding is spent on the British Fashion Council designers' party at LFW and/or its respective parties in Paris, Milan and New York?

None.

4. What are the criteria that the BFC has to meet in order to receive funding? Please supply the written criteria for the funding allocation. Please be as specific as possible. For example, if it is 'promoting British fashion', does this mean fashion designed *and* manufactured here? What constitutes "British"?

The aim of the GLA's funding is to retain and develop London's position as a world city for fashion.

In order to receive funding the British Fashion Council has to meet criteria for economic impact and delivery of orders, including for emerging designers, as detailed in question 6; support a minimum of 100 fashion small to medium enterprises to develop their businesses; and deliver London Fashion Week and London Fashion Week Men's.

The GLA does not hold information regarding the second part of the question on 'What constitutes "British"?'. Please refer this question to the British Fashion Council.

5. What other public costs are there for hosting LFW in addition to the money given directly to the BFC? Please give a breakdown and cost, for example road closures,

emergency services on standby, venue hire, fees to organisations, airport security, travel expenditure, etc.

The GLA does not hold any information on this and you will need to write to individual key agencies to establish this information.

6. Does the GLA need a certain cost return/benefit to be made from its funding allocation to the BFC? If so how much?

(For example, if there needs to be a cost benefit ratio of £XX for every £X spent. Or if the LFW would need to generate £XX amount of sales from the event. Or another quantifiable metric.)

Yes. The British Fashion Council has a target to generate at least £111.2m in new orders from London Fashion Week and London Fashion Week Men's each year. The British Fashion Council achieved £112m in new orders in 2018-19.

7. How does the GLA ensure that the criteria for the BFC receiving funding is met?

The GLA funding agreement sets out key targets which include generating job opportunities and apprenticeships, orders, exports and inward investment. Performance against these indicators is reported on a quarterly basis by the British Fashion Council and published to the London Assembly's Budget Monitoring Sub-committee.

8. How is the BFC audited to ensure that they are spending correctly and that their accounts and figures are accurate?

The British Fashion Council contract is monitored quarterly and progress against targets is published via the London Assembly's Budget Monitoring Sub-committee. Any organisations receiving a grant from the GLA, have to comply with the GLA's Compliance Audit framework which ensures that the GLA's policies, funding conditions and procedures are followed.

9. Are there any other ethical, legal or fair practice standards that the BFC needs to meet in order to receive GLA funding, for example model welfare, fur-free status, environmental protection? If so, how are these standards audited to ensure they are adhered to?

GLA grant recipients, including the British Fashion Council, agree to comply with:

- the Bribery Act 2010;
- the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- the Data Protection Act 1998;
- having appropriate equal opportunities and complaints procedures and policies;
- taking all necessary steps to secure the health, safety and welfare of all persons involved in or attending the work undertaken as a result of the funding;
- complying with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, GLA Contracts Code, Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007, Responsible Procurement Policy and underlying EU Procurement Directive where applicable and any applicable EU rules on State Aid.
- the GLA's Compliance Audit process.

In addition, the British Fashion Council delivers the "Positive Fashion" programme which includes:

- becoming the first big Fashion Week to become fur free;
- increasing diversity on the catwalk, with London now the second most diverse catwalk in the world after New York;
- supporting model welfare through its Model Health Programme;
- reducing environmental impact with programmes like 'Fashion SWITCH to Green' to encourage businesses to use green energy suppliers.

10. Does the BFC qualify for any tax exemptions or charitable status? Please explain which ones, and why.

The GLA does not hold this information. Please refer this question to the British Fashion Council.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA101219-8731.

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>