


# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA181217-7998

12 January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 19 December 2017. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*During the pre-New Year period we are comparing expenses incurred on Christmas illumination and lightning in city streets and different public areas by various city halls. We would be grateful if you provide us with the information of Christmas lightning and illumination expenses incurred by the London City Hall.*

The Greater London Authority does not hold any information within the scope of your request.

The GLA is London's strategic government and does not operate in the same way as local authorities and you would need to contact the individual local Borough Councils to enquire about lighting that they have organised in their areas: <https://www.london.gov.uk/in-my-area>. Some other displays are organised and paid for by businesses and business associations.

The GLA is responsible for Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The Authority facilitates the installation of the Oslo Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square each year. The costs associated with the erection and de-rig of the tree are shared between the GLA and Westminster City Council. The lighting event is paid for and managed by Westminster City Council, including the ceremonial switching on, so we do not hold information about the costs of the ceremony.

The tree is decorated in traditional Norwegian fashion, with festoon lighting - amounting to almost 900 energy-efficient light bulbs. The festoon lighting was purchased by the GLA several years ago and is re-used every year.

The GLA bears the costs for the electricity used on the Square including for the Christmas tree festoon lighting. However, the energy usage for the lights is not monitored separately so the GLA does not have records of the specific electricity costs connected with the Christmas lights. The lights are fitted with a timer to minimise energy usage and costs.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA181217-7998.

Yours sincerely

**Ruth Phillips**  
**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>