

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our ref: MGLA201120-0469

1 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 19 November 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for;

1. *The total number of trees felled by Greater London Authority council for the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 (up to the most recent month of available data). For each year of data please state and break down:*
 - *The reason for the felling of said trees*
 - *The cost to the council of felling trees*
 - *The locations of trees felled*
 - *The species of trees felled and in what capacity*
 - *If trees felled were street trees or rural*
2. *The total number of trees planted by Greater London Authority council for the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 (up to the most recent month of available data). For each year of data, please state and break down:*
 - *The cost to the council of planting trees*
 - *The locations of trees planted*
 - *The species of trees planted and in what capacity*
 - *If trees planted were street trees or rural*
3. *The total number of trees under Greater London Authority council authority in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 (up to the most recent month of available data). For each year of data, please state and break down:*
 - *The locations of trees*
 - *The species of trees*
 - *If trees were street trees or rural*

Our response to your request is as follows:

The GLA is London's strategic government and does not operate in the same way as local councils. Details about the GLA's role can be found at: www.london.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work-london. The Greater London Authority does not hold information on the day to day management of most of London's street or parks trees as this is the direct responsibility of London's 32 boroughs, the City of London and Transport for London (TfL). You can find details

of London's boroughs via this page: www.london.gov.uk/in-my-area. For information about the number of trees felled and planted by TfL, you should contact TfL's information access team using FOI@tfl.gov.uk. The GLA does manage Parliament Square Gardens, and therefore the answers to your questions below include relevant information for this site.

To respond to your questions in turn:

1. The Greater London Authority felled one tree in Parliament Square Gardens in 2017. No trees were felled in any of the other years between 2016 and 2020. The tree felled was a Catalpa, and it was felled due to disease, which had the potential to become a safety hazard. The tree was replaced with a Catalpa erubescens purpurea. The cost of felling, stump removal, reinstating soil level and replanting was £1,676.
2. As detailed above, the GLA has directly planted one Catalpa erubescens purpurea tree in Parliament Square during the time period specified.

Although not directly in scope of your request, we do hold figures for trees planted in London with funding from Mayoral tree planting programmes and grant schemes, and through GLA regeneration and housing schemes. It also includes trees planted by Transport for London on their TfL Road Network. We hold this information by financial year, and the number of trees planted in each year requested is set out below.

2016-17	43,421
2017-18	25,939
2018-19	106,967
2019-20	108,030

3. The GLA directly manages 9 trees, which are all located in Parliament Square Gardens. These trees consist of 7 London planes (Platanus x hispanica) and 2 Catalpa.

Although not directly in scope of your request, we have published an estimate for the total number of trees within the Greater London Authority area, as part of our Valuing London's Urban Forest report. The study estimated that there are 8,421,000 trees in Greater London. You can read this report here:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/valuing_londons_urban_forest_i-tree_report_final.pdf

We have also published data showing where London's tree canopy is located. You can view this map here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/tree-canopy-cover-map>

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely


Senior Policy and Programmes Officer, Environment

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>