

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

██████████
██████████
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA291018-6383

27 November 2018

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 29 October 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

- *Does the Greater London Authority procure plastic bottles for use in local authority premises; if so, how many per year over the last 5 years?*
- *How many or what percentage of the plastic bottles used within the Greater London Authority are recycled and how many go to landfill?*
- *Does the Greater London Authority have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage among Council staff and elected officials? If so, please provide further details.*
- *Does the Greater London Authority have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage at premises owned or leased out to 3rd parties? If so, please provide further details.*
- *Is the Greater London Authority engaged with any local initiatives to reduce plastic bottle waste? If so, please provide further details.*

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request:

Does the Greater London Authority procure plastic bottles for use in local authority premises; if so, how many per year over the last 5 years?

See table below showing all plastic beverage bottles for City Hall's Café and the Café in Trafalgar Square over the past 5 years.

Please note that in April 2018, the procurement of plastic beverage bottles, straws and cutlery was discontinued at City Hall. For safety we continue to use plastic rather than glass at Trafalgar Square.

Tax Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 to date (12/11/18)
City Hall	27716	27789	29786	28013	4323
Café on the Square	9214	10073	8297	9095	4172

How many or what percentage of the plastic bottles used within the Greater London Authority are recycled and how many go to landfill?

City Hall

We do not hold figures for the percentage of plastic bottles recycled. Our overall recycling rate at City Hall is about 81%.

No waste generated at City Hall goes to landfill.

General waste produced at City Hall which is not recycled is burnt for energy.

Trafalgar Square Café

We do not hold this information. Our contractors do not keep records specifically for the Café in Trafalgar Square. They deal with waste from the café, from Trafalgar Square generally and from Parliament Square and they do not keep records for plastic bottle waste specifically. There is no landfill waste at Trafalgar Square.

Does the Greater London Authority have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage among Council staff and elected officials? If so, please provide further details.

Does the Greater London Authority have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage at premises owned or leased out to 3rd parties? If so, please provide further details.

City Hall

We have a policy commitment within the [London Environment Strategy](#) (page 425) to work with catering contractors to provide access to tap water for all staff and visitors to mitigate the need to sell water in plastic bottles.

Within the [Implementation Plan of the Strategy](#) (page 37) we have the commitment to “cut unnecessary use of single use plastic bottles and disposables across the GLA”. As part of that commitment, we have taken several actions within City Hall:

- We now use 100% recyclable cups and sell reusable coffee cups in the cafe at City Hall. We’ve also put into place incentives for staff to use reusable cups.
- We now sell reusable water bottles in the café at City Hall.

- We have removed all plastic bottles for water and fizzy drinks – (and we are working with catering contractors to mitigate the need to sell other single-use plastic containers – e.g. some juices).
- We have removed all single-use plastic cutlery and other plastic disposables (e.g. plastic cups, straws) within City Hall.

Trafalgar Square café

We have not been able to phase out plastic bottles at the café in Trafalgar Square. Our licence at Trafalgar Square stipulates no glass bottles for alcohol are permitted on the premises (this is for safety). Similarly, we have no glass bottles at the Café in the Square to avoid all safety risks with glass within the space.

Is the Greater London Authority engaged with any local initiatives to reduce plastic bottle waste? If so, please provide further details.

The Mayor launched a programme of work this year to focus on reducing the impact of single-use plastic bottles. This includes:

- A pilot water refill scheme in five areas in London;
- 20 new drinking water fountains across the city through a pilot with Zoological Society of London's #Oneless campaign;
- A new £5 million partnership with Thames Water to install over 100 more drinking water fountains over the next three years. The first round of applications opened on 12th November and will close on 3rd December.

More information on our work on plastic bottle reduction can be found

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/waste-and-recycling/single-use-plastic-bottles>

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA291018-6383.

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>