

## **Freedom of Information Act request**

Thank you for your recent request for information. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we can today provide you with a response to your request.

Your request asked for the release of the following information:

### *1. What is the function and purpose of a Heritage Warden*

The Heritage Wardens assist the Greater London Authority (GLA) in the performance of their duties relating to the care, control and management of the GLA controlled land at Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square Gardens. They do this by assisting the public with information about the Squares, ensuring that the Byelaws are complied with and in the case of Parliament Square, Part 3 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and monitoring the condition of and activities on the Squares on a day to day basis.

### *2. What authority under common law do they possess (exclusive of any byelaw that can be challenged in court)*

The Heritage wardens have no common law powers other than those afforded to members of the public.

### *3. What is the geographical extent of this authority should it exist.*

The extent of the GLA controlled land at both Squares is shown on the attached plans.

In regard to your comments that you "*have noticed uniformed persons located at or near monuments and other places of interest, harassing members of the public and making demands that they should cease video and filming. I am informed that these persons are Heritage Wardens employed by the Greater London Authority*". I can only comment on the activities undertaken by the Heritage Wardens on the GLA controlled Squares. In accordance with the relevant Byelaws regulating both Parliament and Trafalgar Squares, commercial photography or video recordings are prohibited unless acting in accordance with the written permission of the Mayor or any other person authorised by the Mayor to grant such permission. I set out the provisions of Byelaw 5 common to both byelaws as follows:

Unless acting in accordance with permission given in writing by the Mayor, or any person authorised by the Mayor under section 380 of the Act to give such permission, no person shall within the Square - take photographs or film or make any other recordings of visual images for the purpose of or in connection with a business, trade, profession or employment or any activity carried on by a person or body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate;

A link to the application process that allows people to seek permission for commercial photography or filming can be found at either:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/venue-hire/book-parliament-square-garden>

or

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/venue-hire/book-traffic-square>

Undertaking any such activities without written permission is an offence and may result in prosecution.

In the case of the GLA controlled Squares should a Heritage Warden see someone engaged in what appears to be commercial photography or filming they will approach the individual to establish if they are carrying out a commercial activity and if so will check their authorisation. If they do not have the appropriate permission they will be signposted to the application process and they will be asked to seek the necessary authorisation before continuing with their commercial photography or filming.

Amateur photography and filming, for example tourists taking photographs of the monuments in Trafalgar Square, is not affected by this particular byelaw.

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>

Yours sincerely