

**RE: MGLA230316-8002 Freedom of Information request**

**Mayor of London** (mayor@london.gov.uk)

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 22 March. Your request is copied in full at the end of this email.

You requested:

1

**Information on any reviews carried out and any procurement procedures, processes and systems and any changes and improvements you have put in place to ensure best value is achieved for all goods and services since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.**

The responsibility for procurement at the GLA was passed to TfL in 2009 as part of its Shared Services agenda. This work has been on the agenda of the GLA Oversight Committee whose records are reported on the London Assembly web pages here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=254> .

In common with the wider public sector, the GLA Group constituent bodies have had to adapt to a drive for further efficiency savings whilst simultaneously responding to the pressures of supporting a growing world city with diverse and complex needs. The Group have recognised the benefit of setting up a Collaborative procurement approach which is fit for purpose - recognising opportunities for collaboration between Functional Bodies. The Group needs to optimise value through third party spend, which collectively totals over £6bn per annum.

The GLA has led an initiative to evaluate whether there could be benefit through better collaboration across procurement departments in the Functional Bodies. This group has recommended the creation of a GLA Collaborative Procurement team to lead and manage categories of spend common amongst the members of the Group. The evaluation has indicated that the GLA Collaborative Procurement team could deliver £4.4 million of third party cost reductions annually through greater leverage of the collective buying power and access to the savings potential of the GLA group.

Collaborative activity within the GLA Collaborative Procurement team has focused on categories that are common across the GLA Functional Bodies, this is where the most value has be found and the ability to scope the services and align requirements has been possible. Unique categories of spend (e.g. fire engines, police armour and rolling stock) remain within the Functional Bodies. The GLA Collaborative Procurement team is housed by TfL at Windsor House.

In April 2015 the GLA Collaborative Procurement Team was initiated. This Team is based within TfL, but procures a number of categories on behalf of all of the GLA functional bodies. The categories that are currently in scope for this initiative are:

- ? Marketing
- ? Office Supplies
- ? Travel
- ? Business Consultants
- ? Engineering Consultants
- ? Legal Services
- ? Insurance
- ? Financial Services
- ? Recruitment
- ? Utilities and Fuel
- ? Couriers
- ? Print
- ? Uniform

2

**Information on the effectiveness and any savings achieved as a result of the reviews carried out and changes implemented as detailed in the above bullet point, including in which specific areas and departments, the amounts saved in figures and as a percentage of overall budget, since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.**

Savings attributed to the Collaborative Procurement Team (for 2015/16) and reported to the Collaborative Procurement Board (Chaired by Sir Edward Lister - Deputy Mayor) is £4.81m from a total spend of £440m.

3

**Information on the number of full and part-time employees you have in procurement roles now, and the number of full and part-time employees that were in procurement roles on 1 July 2014.**

The GLA has no employees in a procurement role currently, and had none on 1 July 2014, because the service has been provided by TfL employees since 2009.

4

**Information on any fraud incidents relating to council employees, council services and services procured externally that have come to light since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.**

There are nil cases of fraud relating to GLA employees

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Finance  
City Hall

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/greater-london-authority-gla/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

? Information on any reviews carried out and any procurement procedures, processes and systems and any changes and improvements you have put in place to ensure best value is achieved for all goods and services since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.

? Information on the effectiveness and any savings achieved as a result of the reviews carried out and changes implemented as detailed in the above bullet point, including in which specific areas and departments, the amounts saved in figures and as a percentage of overall budget, since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.

? Information on the number of full and part-time employees you have in procurement roles now, and the number of full and part-time employees that were in procurement roles on 1 July 2014.

? Information on any fraud incidents relating to council employees, council services and services procured externally that have come to light since the launch of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in July 2014.

Please provide the above information to me as an electronic copy at [REDACTED]

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act.

If you can identify ways that my request could be refined please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be happy to clarify what I am asking for. My details are outlined above.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm via email to [REDACTED] that you have received this request.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]