

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA030119-2231

6 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 3 January 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

Please provide details of the budget and final expenditure for the 2018/19 New Year's Eve celebrations, including fireworks display and entertainment along with associated expenditure in London centred around the London Eye and the River Thames?

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request

The budget agreed for the London New Year's Eve Fireworks event of 31 December 2018 is available online in Mayoral Decision MD2243: <https://www.london.gov.uk/decisions/md2243-new-years-eve-2018>.

The GLA does not hold the final costs for the 2018 fireworks – these are still being reconciled. You may wish to submit your request again after a couple of months when the figures should have been finalised.

Every year London stages one the greatest fireworks show in the world. The spectacular images of fireworks lighting up London's skyline are viewed around the globe, showing off our great capital and demonstrating to the world that London is open to all.

The economic benefits as a result of the event are considerable. With more than 100,000 ticket holders from London, across the UK and abroad, this translates into a multi-million-pound boost to the capital's visitor economy.

In addition, the national and worldwide media coverage of the event brings significant media value and promotion of London. In 2018, the event was watched on BBC TV and other media by an audience of more than 12 million, and by many more across the globe. The total financial benefits to London far out-weigh the public expenditure incurred.

The safety of Londoners and visitors to the capital is our first priority to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the celebration safely. Ticketing was introduced as a measure to help reduce overall numbers attending in person in 2014. Up until 2013, total numbers attending reached up

to 500,000, which had serious implications for crowd management and safety. The ticketing revenue received since ticketing was introduced in 2014 has helped to offset the additional costs associated with implementing the ticketing process.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA030119-2231.

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>