## Request details – FOI5245

I am writing to obtain information about the number of council employees allowed to act full time on trade union duties employed by the Council and the total amount of money spent on funding trade union representatives.

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

- 1. How many Council employees did you have working full time on trade union business during the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial periods?
- 2. What was the total salary for Council officials working full time on trade union business for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial periods, as well as the total amount budgeted for the 2010-11 financial year?
- 3. What was the estimated annual cost of resources used by council officials working full time on trade union business (office space, telephone etc.) for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial periods, as well as the total amount budgeted for the 2010-11 financial year?
- 4. Copies of the relevant facilities agreement with each union and the date this was last negotiated.

## Response details – FOI5245

I am writing in respect of your recent enquiry for information, held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please find herewith:

1. How many Council employees did you have working full time on trade union business during the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial periods?

There are currently 21 council employees working on full-time trade union business.

To provide the information requested for the financial periods 2008-9 and 2009-10 would cost more than the appropriate limit to consider your request.

The appropriate limit specified in the regulations is £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Already in excess of 18 hours has been spent in dealing with this request. Consequently, the Council is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request see section 12(1).

However, we are still happy proceed if you are willing to pay the fee as set out below in this notice. On this basis the amount of effort required would be a further 3 days work to liaise with Directorate colleagues in order to collate, prepare and calculate the information requested. This is calculated at £182.50 per day (£25.00 per hour x 7.3 hrs) x 3 days = £547.50.

This figure may of course vary considerably if more effort is required in retrieving information. This charge has been calculated in accordance with section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.

2. What was the total salary for Council officials working full time on trade union business for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial periods, as well as the total amount budgeted for the 2010-11 financial year?

The total salary figure (including salary, National Insurance and Superannuation) paid by Birmingham City Council for Council officials working full time on trades union business for the 2010-11 financial period was £466,506 broken down as follows:

	£
Council Officials paid by BCC ( Salary , NI and supernannuation + schools)	£466,506
Total Cost	£466,506
Budgeted Council Officials paid by BCC ( Salary , NI and	
supernannuation)	£874,600

As in question 1 above, to provide the information requested for the financial periods 2008-9 and 2009-10 would cost more than the appropriate limit to consider your request.

The appropriate limit specified in the regulations is £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Already in excess of 18 hours has been spent in dealing with this request. Consequently, the Council is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request see section 12(1).

However, we are still happy proceed if you are willing to pay the fee as set out below in this notice. On this basis the amount of effort required would be a further 3 days work to liaise with Directorate colleagues in order to collate, prepare and calculate the information requested. This is calculated at £182.50 per day (£25.00 per hour x 7.3 hrs) x 3 days = £547.50.

This figure may of course vary considerably if more effort is required in retrieving information. This charge has been calculated in accordance with section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.

3. What was the estimated annual cost of resources used by council officials working full time on trade union business (office space, telephone etc.) for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial periods, as well as the total amount budgeted for the 2010-11 financial year?

The annual cost of resources for 'all' council officials working on trade union business is listed in table below, please note the report does not give a break-down of full-time/part-time trade union officials.

Actual Spend on TU Resources		
Period	Actual	
2010-11	£25,389.87	
2009-10	£27,297.81	
2008-09	£24,845.70	

4. Copies of the relevant facilities agreement with each union and the date this was last negotiated.

Non applicable.