

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2011 11:58
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI Request 296

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 296

Thank you for your email received by the Scotland Office on 2 August 2011. You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

I am writing to obtain information about the total amount of money paid to trade unions by your organisation and the amount of staff time spent on trade union activities

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

- 1. The total amount of money paid to all trade unions for financial periods a) 2009-10 and b) 2010-11 broken down by trade union.*
- 2. For each trade union for which it applies, please provide the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff working for the union (this is sometimes called 'Trade Union facility time') in a) 2009-10 and b) 2010-11*

Please note that I will not accept any refusal to provide this information on the grounds that it is not recorded. The guidelines issued by ACAS state that "An employee who is a member of an independent trade union recognised by the employer in respect of that description of employee is to be permitted reasonable time off during working hours to take part in any trade union activity. An employee who is a member of an independent and recognised trade union is also permitted to take reasonable time off during working hours for the purposes of accessing the services of a Union Learning Representative (provided those services are services for which the Union Learning Representative is entitled to time off)." – If the information is not recorded, it cannot be possible to ascertain whether time-off provided is reasonable. If a formal record is not kept then I will accept a reasonable internal estimate.

The Scotland Office has made no payments to trade unions. No staff work full time or part time on trade union activities.

I hope you find this helpful.


If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.


Scotland Office
Melville Crescent,
Edinburgh, EH3 7HW