



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

Ref: FOI 2024-053
Date: 29th October 2024

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

Thank you for your email of 06 October 2024, in which you have requested access to information held by the National Park Authority. We have processed your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Our response is provided below.

Your Request

1. *The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:*

- *space measured in square feet*
- *how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)*
- *whether a professional valuation of the market rental value of the space has been sought either in-house or externally, and if so, what the valuation of the space was*
- *any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions.*

2. *Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)? If so, do you charge a fee to the trade unions concerned for providing this service?*

3. *With regard to trade union facility time, please provide the total cost of facility time from your pay bill for the financial year 2023/24 and the budget for the current financial year. Please also advise the current number of employees that you fund to be union officials, measured as full time equivalents? (For guidance on definitions please refer to the Government's Transparency Code for local government:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015/local-government-transparency-code-2015>)

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N

t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org

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4. *Please advise any estimates for other costs met for those staff on trade union facility time apart from salaries - including travel expenses, office supplies, telephone expenses and energy bills."*

Our Response

1. The National Park Authority does not maintain any such dedicated space for trade union activity. Our trade union representatives can make use of office accommodation as and when required.
2. We do provide a 'check-off' service and we do not charge a fee to the trade union.
3. The total cost of facility time for 2023/2024 was £1,227. There is no specific budget for facility time, as costs are absorbed within our budget. We have one full-time equivalent trade union representative.
4. We do not have any other costs associated with trade union facility time.

Your Right to Review

If you are unhappy with our handling of your request, you have the right to ask us to perform an internal review of this response. More information on how to request a review, along with information about your right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, is provided in the attached sheet.

Yours sincerely

Information Management
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you are required to:

- Send your request for review in writing, setting out in full the reasons why you are requesting a review.
- Submit your review request within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the Authority or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.
- address your review request to:

Information Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
E-mail: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request for review, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info