



Ref: 0694

Request:

Received: 25/05/2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to obtain information about the total amount of money paid to trade unions by London Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the amount of staff time spent on union activities by London Ambulance Service NHS Trust employees.

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 2008-09 and 2009-10. Where possible this should be broken down by the individual payments to each trade union by name, however if this disaggregated information is not available please continue to provide a total figure for union payments.
2. The amount of paid staff time, in terms of full-time equivalent staff numbers (FTE), spent working on behalf of a trade union – this is sometimes called 'Trade Union facility time' - in the financial periods 2008-09 and 2009-10. Where possible this should be broken down by each trade union by name, however if this disaggregated information is not available please continue to provide a total figure for staff time.



Response:

Responded: 16/06/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

1. We offer the standard DOCAS arrangement to facilitate payment of union membership fees and pay them across, but do not make any financial contributions to any Trades Union.
2. There is formal agreement with the three recognised unions that the Chair and Secretary of the collective Trade Union side are granted paid release to undertake union duties. Seven senior representatives in total are granted half-time release. Further information regarding time-off is not collected, as requests for reasonable time-off are considered locally and in line with legislative and best practice requirements. These arrangements have been in place during the periods you specify.

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust



Further Request:

Received: 17/06/2010

Dear Mr Bassett,

Thank you for your response.

However you did not state the name of the three recognized unions with which there is a formal agreement. Please can you get this information to me?

Furthermore you state the chair and secretary of the collective trade union side are granted paid time release but do not state the amount of paid time leave that they are given. Please can you send me this information? Also you state that seven senior reps in total are granted half- time release, is this therefore 0.5 fte?

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



Further response:

Responded: 17/06/2010

Dear

The Trust recognises three Trades Unions: Unison, GMB and Unite.

The Trade Union Side Chair and Secretary each have paid full-time release.

Half-time release is 0.5 WTE per person.

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust