

Date issued: 21 December 2020

Freedom of Information Request

We are writing in response to your Freedom of Information request. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our information access policy.

You asked for the following information:

“Which trade unions does Transport Wales recognise and what is the annual spend on trade union facility time?”

Having reviewed your questions, we are able to provide the following information:

Transport for Wales (including Transport for Wales catering services) and Transport for Wales Rail Services recognise the following unions:

- Civil Service Unions: PCS, Prospect and FDA
- Rail Unions: Aslef, RMT, TSSA and Unite

There are no union representatives within Transport for Wales (the subsidiary company wholly owned by Welsh-Government), meaning that the annual spend on trade union facility time is zero.

There are many union representatives within Transport for Wales Rail Services (owned by KeolisAmey Operations, operators of the Wales and Borders Franchise until 7 February 2021), however, calculating the annual spend on trade union facility time would exceed the time and cost limit of processing a request as outlined in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. In this case, supplying the information would involve an extensive manual search of over 2,500 HR files spread across several locations, which are securely stored, and further work extracting the information from records, redacting it and preparing it for disclosure.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that the cost of dealing with the request would exceed £600. Regulation 4(3) of the Fees Regulations states that a public authority can only consider the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Transport for Wales has determined that the cost of processing your request would exceed the limit of £600.

We are unable to provide the annual spend on trade union facility time by The Transport for Wales Catering team. This information is not available, as the Catering team only became part of Transport for Wales in January of this year.

We hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Transport for Wales