

44/12

REQUEST

I am writing to obtain information about the total amount of money paid to trade unions by Tendring, the amount of staff time spent on trade union duties and / or activities and the payment of subscriptions.

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

1. The total amount of money paid to all trade unions for financial years a) 2010-11 and b) 2011-12. Where possible please provide a list of total payments made to each different trade union. However if this disaggregated information is not available please continue to provide a total figure for trade union payments. In response to this question, please only include direct payments to the unions from your organisation, not membership dues deducted from staff salaries.
2. Please state:
 - a. Which trade unions your organisation provide staff time to work on trade union duties and / or activities (sometimes called 'Trade Union facility time') in i) 2010-11 and ii) 2011-12.
 - b. The number of full time equivalent staff that were provided for each trade union in i) 2010-11 and ii) 2011-12.
3. Does your organisation automatically deduct trade union subscriptions from staff salaries in the payroll process in order to pass them on to the union? If so, how much did your organisation charge each union for this service in a) 2010-11 and b) 2011-12?

Please note that 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)."*

RESPONSE

In answer to question 1, the Council does not make any direct payments to any trade unions.

In answer to question 2, the only trade union that TDC recognises is Unison and there are no full time staff working for the trade union within the Council. The local (Tendring) branch of the union have an Executive consisting of Officers of the Council who are allowed time to deal with any union matters on behalf of their members.

In answer to question 3, yes the Council does deduct trade union subscriptions from staff salaries in the payroll process and we do not make a charge to Unison for doing so.