

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.24.3746](#)

Date Received: 04/10/2024

Information Requested:

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.

[Our local trade union representatives are able to book space without charge at any of our Trust locations in order for them to undertake trade union activity within the Trust.](#)

[There is a dedicated trade union office within our Administration Block at Thurrock Community Hospital – there are no charges applied for the use of this office. It measures 9.10sm](#)

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?

[Yes, No fee is charged](#)

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:

[This information is available on the EPUT trust website please see link below
<https://eput.nhs.uk/about-us/reports-and-accounts/>](#)

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.

[This would be difficult to estimate – local trade union reps have access to day to day office supplies within their local teams. Where additional equipment is requested \(e.g.](#)

mobile phone or laptop) this is provided on an ad hoc basis – there have been no costs in relation to this for 2023/24.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link
<https://eput.nhs.uk>