

Freedom of Information disclosure about the funding of trade union activities

This Department does not pay any money directly to the trade unions representing staff. We pay the salary and related costs (travel and subsistence etc) for a number of DCLG headquarters staff undertaking industrial relations and trade unions activities in this Department on a full and part-time basis. In addition, a number of staff receive facility time alongside their normal Departmental roles. All these staff are provided with accommodation, IT equipment and use of meeting rooms on the same basis as other Departmental staff.

The Department officially recognises three trade unions which represent the staff of the Department. These are the FDA, Prospect and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS). Each trade union provides representation for different grades and professions, with some degree of overlap. Once the Department has agreed the total allocation of facility time the trade unions operating under the umbrella of the Departmental Trade Union Side (DTUS) together agree the sub-division of facility time.

The Cabinet Office advises that overall facility time provisions should represent 0.2 per cent of a Department's overall headcount. The Department has followed this advice and intends to do so in the future. The Department is currently undergoing a restructuring process which will reduce the Department's headcount. Once this process has been completed the Department will review facility time provisions, but still intend to follow the Cabinet Office's advice. We would therefore expect to see a proportional reduction in facility time provision in line with the reduced staff numbers.