



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY & EFFICACY
OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

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ATI 287

Request

From: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Sent: 6 February 2014

Subject: relating to office accommodation our organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business

1. Please provide 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.

2. 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.

VMD Reply

Sent: 7 February 2014

To: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Subject: relating to office accommodation our organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business

Your Request

Thank you for your email, dated 6 February 2014. We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for details of any office accommodation our organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business including 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.

You also asked for 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.

Our Reply

It may help if I explain that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is a small Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Our aim is to protect public health, animal health and the environment and promote animal welfare by assuring the safety, quality and efficacy of veterinary medicines.

We have about 160 people in the Agency. As we are so small in size and numbers we do not provide any office accommodation to staff to carry out trade union business, nor do we meet costs for staff on trade union facility time.

Our Service

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this e-mail. If you would like to request an internal review please write to [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA] at the VMD via ati@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office

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