

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 26841**

*Please advise:*

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.*
- *The only building where there is union accommodation is Endeavour House (EH). The area Unison occupy is 116.1m<sup>2</sup>*
- *No unions are housed in entirely separate buildings.*
- *No professional valuation has been sought for the space in EH.*
- *Suffolk County Council does not charge Unison for their accommodation in EH.*

2. *Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)?*

*Yes.*

*If so, do you charge a fee to the trade unions concerned for providing this service?*

*Yes.*

3. *With regard to trade union facility time, please provide the total cost of facility time from your pay bill for the financial year 2024/25 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:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015/local-government-transparency-code-2015>)

*We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. The information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.*

**Section 21** of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

This information is available on the Suffolk County Council (SCC) website [Council salaries - Suffolk County Council](#)

The information can be found under the Trade Union Facility Time section and 2024/25 information will be uploaded soon.

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.*

None other than those under response to Q3 for facility time.