

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 18 January 2023

Public Authority: Greater London Authority

Address: City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested information from the Greater London Authority ("GLA").
2. By the date of this notice the GLA had not issued a substantive response to these requests.
3. The Commissioner's decision is that the GLA has breached section 10(1) of FOIA in that it failed to provide a valid response to the requests within the statutory time frame of 20 working days.
4. The Commissioner requires the GLA to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
 - The GLA must provide substantive responses to the requests in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.
5. The GLA must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Request and response

6. On 3 October 2022 the complainant wrote to the GLA and requested information in four separate requests. The full wording of each of these requests is included in Annex A at the end of this decision notice.
7. The GLA acknowledged the requests on 3 October 2022. To date, a substantive response has not been issued.

Scope of the case

8. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 10 November 2022 to complain about the GLA's failure to respond to their requests.
9. The Commissioner has considered whether the GLA has complied with its obligations in relation to the time for compliance at section 10(1) of FOIA.

Reasons for decision

10. Section 1(1) of FOIA states that:
 - "Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled –
 - (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
 - (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him."
11. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".
12. On 20 December 2022 the Commissioner wrote to the GLA reminding it of its responsibilities and asking it to provide a substantive response to the complainant's requests within 10 working days.
13. Despite this intervention the GLA has failed to respond to the complainant.

14. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the GLA did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner finds that the GLA has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the requests within 20 working days and it is now required to respond to the requests in accordance with FOIA.

Right of appeal

15. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963
Fax: 0870 739 5836
Email: grc@justice.gov.uk
Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatorychamber

16. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
17. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

**Michael Lea Team Manager
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**

Annex A

The requests

On 3 October 2022 the complainant wrote to GLA and requested information in the following terms:

Request 1

TICKETS FOR THE ENCLOSED AREAS AROUND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND WESTMINSTER AT THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE 2022 OF THE LATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II – APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2000

I seek the following information concerning the tickets for entering the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1. Did the Greater London Authority make the decision that entry by ticket only to the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II would be required?
2. If the Greater London Authority made the decision that entry by ticket only to the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II would be required, when was this decision made?
3. If the Greater London Authority made the decision as in question 1, who in Greater London Authority decided that entry by ticket only to the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II would be required?
4. If the Greater London Authority made the decision as in question 1, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions that decided that entry by ticket only to the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022

regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II would be required and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?

5. If the Greater London Authority made the decision as in question 1, what were the arrangements made so that members of the general public could apply for tickets to enter the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and

Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?

6. If the Greater London Authority made the decision as in question 1, were the tickets to enter the enclosed areas around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 regarding the late HM Queen Elizabeth II advertised and if so where and how?

I make this application under section 8(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Request 2

ROAD AND OPEN SPACES CLOSURES AROUND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND WESTMINSTER AT THE LYING IN STATE AND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II – APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2000

I seek the following information concerning the road and open spaces closures around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during the lying in State and funeral of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1. Did the Greater London Authority make the Road and Open Spaces closures for the lying in state of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II, including the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall?
2. Did the Greater London Authority make the Road and Open Spaces closures for the funeral and related processions of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?

3. If so, was the Greater London Authority the "Traffic Authority" for these purposes?
4. If so, when were the relevant Road Traffic and Open Space measures made and by whom?
5. Are these publicly accessible and if not why not?
6. If so, did the measures include provisions for preventing members of the general public from entering the closed roads and open spaces and monitoring and controlling those that had actually entered them?
7. What were the statutory provisions used for this purpose?
8. If the Greater London Authority was the "Traffic Authority" for these purposes and made the relevant Orders, I request to be supplied with copies?

I make this application under section 8(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Request 3

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AROUND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND WESTMINSTER AT THE LYING IN STATE AND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II – APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2000

I seek the following information concerning the security measures around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during the lying in State and funeral of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1. Did the Greater London Authority make the decision to employ private security marshals at the entrances to the closed roads and open spaces and in them regarding the lying in state of the late HM Queen Elizabeth

II, including the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall?

2. If so, who in the Greater London Authority made the decision to employ private security marshals at the entrances to the closed roads and open spaces and in them regarding the lying in state of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II, including the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall?
3. If so, who in the Greater London Authority made the decision to employ private security marshals at the entrances to the closed roads and open spaces and in them regarding the funeral and funeral processions?
4. If so, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions that decided that private security marshals would be engaged and employed regarding the above two events and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?
5. At the funeral at Westminster Abbey did the Greater London Authority make the decision that the area immediately opposite the Abbey, and also the processional route from Westminster Hall to the Abbey would not be accessible by members of the public,, and what were the reasons?
6. If so, who in the Greater London Authority made the decision that the area immediately opposite the Abbey, and also the processional route from Westminster Hall to the Abbey would not be accessible by members of the public,, and what were the reasons?
7. If so, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions relating to this and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?
8. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, what is the name of the private Security Company that engaged the security marshals for both the Lying in State and Funeral and related processions events?
9. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, did the private security marshals have any special or

statutory powers to prevent members of the public from entering the closed road and open spaces or to give members of the public directions where they could go within the closed road and open spaces and if so what were the statutory powers or delegated authority that was given?

10. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions relating to this and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?
11. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, what were the costs of engaging the private security company for both of the both the Lying in State and Funeral and related processions events?

I make this application under section 8(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Request 4

ROAD AND OPEN SPACES CLOSURES AROUND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND WESTMINSTER AT THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE 2022 FOR THE LATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II – APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2000

I seek the following information concerning the road and open spaces closures around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1. Did the Greater London Authority make the Road and Open Spaces closures for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?
2. If so, was the Greater London Authority the “Traffic Authority” for this purpose?
3. If so, when were the relevant Road Traffic and Open Space measures made and by whom?
4. Are these publicly accessible and if not why not?

5. If so, did the measures include provisions for preventing members of the general public from entering the closed roads and open spaces and monitoring and controlling those that had actually entered them?
6. What were the statutory provisions used for this purpose?
7. If the Greater London Authority was the "Traffic Authority" for these purposes and made the relevant Orders, I request to be supplied with copies?

I make this application under section 8(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.