

### Trade union facility time report – Central function

Further to the Local Government Transparency Code and the Trade Union (Facility time publication requirements) Regulations 2017, the Council is required to publish information on trade union facility time.

Sunderland City Council has collaborative arrangements in place across the council and its wholly-owned companies, plus most schools and academies in the city, in relation to trade union facility time. Collective bargaining and joint consultation with recognised trade unions is a long-standing feature of employee engagement and employment contracts throughout the public sector. This approach supports the welfare and wellbeing of employees through the provision of appropriate access to advice and support from trade unions and professional associations and supports employers in meeting their statutory responsibilities in this area. The Council takes seriously its responsibilities under the ACAS Code of Practice - Time off for trade union duties and activities

( <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391> ).

This collaborative arrangement involves the pooling of some budgets which supports trade union facility time for a relatively small group of experienced trade union representatives serving as local union officers supporting trade union members across a large trade union membership.

The data reported below is indicative to the reporting period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 and is in relation to non-school based employees within the Council and its Companies.

**Table 1**

Number of employees who were relevant Union officials during the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	Full time equivalent employee number
7	6

**Table 2**

Percentage of time spent of facility time	No of Employees
0%	0
1-50%	0
51-99%	2
100%	5

**Table 3**

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.135%
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**Table 4**

Time spent of paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0
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