

Mr J Rodgers  
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Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Our ref: FOI/994  
Your ref:

Dear Mr Rodgers,

Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Request for Information concerning Tyne and Wear Anti-Fascist Association

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as follows:

*"Freedom of Information request – How many north east councillors/MPs from 2010 to 2019 have been associated with TWAFa – Tyne & Wear Anti-Fascist Association - Please can you inform me as to whether or not, the above combined local authorities, as mentioned above, can confirm how many north east councillors/MPs from 2010 to 2019 have been associated with TWAFa – Tyne & Wear Anti-Fascist Association and which political part(ies) these local authority councillors/MPs are registered, if any. In addition to, what association TWAFa and local councillors have with any trade union movement, under the TUC, such as Unison Unite, GMB or the RMT."*

In response, please note first of all that Sunderland City Council does not hold information of the type requested in relation to MPs, nor in relation to the councillors of any north east authorities other than Sunderland. Neither does it hold any information regarding any association that TWAFa may have with any trade union movement.

Your request must therefore be treated as a request for information as to "how many councillors of Sunderland City Council from 2010 to 2019 have been associated with TWAFa and to which political parties those councillors are registered." Also, "what association councillors of Sunderland City Council have with any trade union movement under the TUC, such as Unison, Unite, GMB or the RMT."

I can advise you that in each of the specified years, this Council has made an annual appointment of a single councillor (or "member") to be a non-voting representative on TWAFa. Over that period of time, two members in total have been appointed and both have been Labour members.

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With regard to the association of any other members with TWAFa and the association of members with any trade union, the Council will only hold information of this nature if it constitutes a declarable interest in relation to which the member in question has completed a declaration of interest form.

The declarations of interest made by all current members of Sunderland City Council (which will include any sponsorship by a trade union) can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm15/Members.aspx>. In view of the fact that this information is made available under the Council's Publication Scheme, it is information which is reasonably accessible to you otherwise than under the individual right of access under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is therefore exempt information under the Act which the Council is not required to provide to you separately in response to your above request.

I recognise that that part of your request relating to association with TWAFa covers the years 2010-2019 and that there will have been members during that period, now retired, who do not feature as current members via the above link. However, declarations of interest made by former members are only retained for a limited period before being destroyed. Those paper records that are still in existence have been checked and I can confirm that they contain no declarations of interest that indicate association with TWAFa.

This information has been provided in response to a Freedom of Information request and this must be acknowledged in any subsequent use of the information. In addition the authority must be notified of any proposed re-use of this information for commercial or other purposes.

I hope this is satisfactory. If, however, you are dissatisfied with our response to your request for information, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed in reply to this letter, however any request for review must be submitted within 40 days of the date of this freedom of information response. The review will be co-ordinated by the Council's Information Governance Team.

A request for review should be directed, by email to [freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk), by post or by hand addressed to; Information Governance Officer, Governance Services, Civic Centre, PO Box 100, Sunderland SR2 7DN.

You are of course entitled to apply to the Information Commissioner at any time, although the Commissioner will not usually investigate until the public authority's internal review procedure has been concluded.

Yours sincerely



Elaine Waugh  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance