West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

Our Reference: 3490

01/05/2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry: Staff representatives involvement in climate decision-making

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, which was received on 01/04/2026.

Your request was:

I am requesting information about recognised trade unions' ability to inform and influence the development and delivery of the council's Climate Action Plan.
If the mayoral authority doesn't recognise trade unions, I would like information about the employee forum's ability to inform and influence the development and delivery of the council's Climate Action Plan
In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:
1. Does the council have any policies, procedures or agreements in place that enable recognised trade unions or the employee forum to influence the development and delivery of the council's Climate Action Plan?
If so, please share details of these policies, procedures or agreements.
2. Have recognised trade unions or the employee forum contributed to any recent consultations related to the delivery of the council's Climate Action Plan?
If so, could you please share any relevant document, dated from 1 January 2024, including:
a) Meeting minutes; b) Reports; c) Invitations to events; d) Other relevant documents

This request is being handled under Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have completed our searches, and I can confirm that the Combined Authority holds information covered by your request.

1. The Combined Authority does not have any specific policies, procedures or formal agreements in place that provide recognised trade unions or the employee forum with a defined role in influencing the development or delivery of the Climate and Environment Plan (CEP).

During the development of the CEP, the stakeholder engagement activity focused primarily on technical and delivery-focused stakeholders who were best placed to contribute operational insight into the actions and objectives within the plan. As a result, trade unions were not specifically engaged as part of this process.

2. Recognised trade unions or employee forum did not participate directly in the CEP engagement workshops or structured consultation activities. However, the Combined Authority conducted an online public survey as part of the wider engagement process. This survey was open to all members of the public, including trade union representatives. Approximately 200 responses were received, including an email submission from the Wakefield Trades Union Council. A summary of the engagement findings is available in the following report: *Ref 3490- CEP Outcome Report 2025.pdf*.

In reviewing the contact lists used to notify stakeholders of the survey launch, it appears that one contact from Unite and one associated with Unison were included in the distribution. Beyond this, no further targeted engagement with trade unions took place, and no additional documents exist that relate to trade union or employee forum involvement in the development or delivery of the Climate and Environment Plan.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

Information Governance Officer
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