



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Reference FOI-1863

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NETWORK RAIL SPENDING ON AWARDS CEREMONIES

Thank you for your request of 5 September 2025 where you asked us for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. *In 2024, Network Rail held an awards ceremony for maintenance, which cost £149,000 (this information was disclosed by Network Rail under FOI). Please confirm whether the NAO was informed about the spending on the awards ceremony.*
2. *In 2025, Network Rail will hold an awards ceremony for operations which will cost an estimated £65,000 in venue and catering costs (this information was disclosed by Network Rail under FOI). Please confirm whether the NAO has been informed about this planned spending."*

We have considered your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can confirm that the NAO was not specifically informed about the spending on the awards ceremonies.

As the external auditor of Network Rail, Network Rail provides a copy of their general ledger data to the NAO which includes financial transactions Network Rail has entered into and so we suspect the data is held in some form. It is possibly combined with other transactions, recorded under different descriptions, or split into multiple entries. However, we have checked our records, and we did not find any details about transactions related to the 2024 maintenance awards ceremony or the upcoming 2025 operations awards ceremony.

I hope this information is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. 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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely

FOI and Correspondence Manager