12 June 2019

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 17 May in which you asked:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Welsh Assembly’s Annual Official Languages Report for the period April 2017 - March 2018 contained the following commitment on page 27 in relation to language skills:

“When the new Welsh language skills framework has been implemented, and the service area language plans reviewed, it will be necessary to conduct a language skills survey across the organisation. Over the next year, we will be asking all Assembly Commission Staff to undertake a self-assessment of their Welsh language skills, based on the new framework. The results of the self-assessments will be incorporated into the human resources and payroll system, and preparations are already underway to enable the system to record this information. This work will provide information regarding language skills levels in a measurable way, which will allow for any changes and increased skills levels across all Assembly Commission staff to be reported annually. The process will also be a way of recognising learners’ progress and of celebrating successes.”

Please can you provide me with:
a) correspondence between the Commission and staff asking them to undertake a self-assessment of their Welsh language skills;

b) the number and percentage of Commission staff whom the Commission has recorded entries for in terms of language skills.

c) of those staff for whom the Commission has recorded entries for in terms of language skills, a breakdown of the number of staff reporting skills at each point of the skills framework.

Many thanks in advance of your assistance.

Please find a response below:

The Assembly Commission has not as yet requested the information from staff.

Having introduced a new language skills framework against which staff were to self-assess, it became apparent that further work was needed to support staff with their understanding of how to accurately record the information required. This is essential in order to ensure that the information gathered is as comprehensive and relevant as possible. For this reason, we have decided to delay the audit and to have it concluded before April 2020.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager
National Assembly for Wales
Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Assembly's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at: Information-request@assembly.wales or in writing to The National Assembly for Wales Governance and Assurance Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA

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