



Remuneration Board

15 June 2022

Request for Information.

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

How many days has the remuneration board sat for each of the last 5 years, broken down by year?

Clarified: I would like to define 'sat' as any meeting held for which minutes were taken and for which members of the board were remunerated.

The Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd (the "Board") is a distinct and separate body from Senedd Cymru ("the Senedd"). For the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the information which you have requested is held by the Senedd on behalf of the Board. The Board has provided the following response which I am passing to you on the Board's behalf.

The Board publishes the agendas and minutes of all the Board **meetings** for which the Board's members are remunerated. Each Board member's remuneration is published on an annual basis in the Board's **annual report**. The **National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010** requires that the Board, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, lays before the Senedd an annual report on its activities,

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Information-request@senedd.wales

including its use of resources, during that financial year. The Board usually publishes its annual report in July of each year.

The Annual Report for 2021-22 is yet to be published. Once published the report will be available on the Board's website (scheduled for July) - **Annual Report (remunerationboard.wales)**

As this information is already available, your request is subject to section 21 of the FOIA which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means.

As there is planned publication of the 2021-22 annual report within the next few weeks, in which the information required for the last financial year will be available, we do not intend to provide the information at this stage as you will be able to view the information when it is published. The reasons that we will not be providing the information at this stage are governed section 22 of the FOIA. For further information see the **Annex**.

Yours sincerely

Buddug Saer
Freedom of Information Manager
Welsh Parliament

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 Welsh Parliament'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@senedd.wales or in writing to

Welsh Parliament
Governance and Assurance
Cardiff Bay
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Annex

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not);
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such the public interest test needs to be considered.

The National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010 requires that the Remuneration Board publishes such information as is necessary to enable the public to be aware of its activities. It does so by publishing an annual report as well as agendas and minutes of meetings.

The Board's practice is to publish the information you seek as part of its annual report and this is expected to occur in July.

We cannot see any circumstances that suggest that there is a public interest in earlier disclosure of the information, in this particular case, other than in accordance with these arrangements. Accordingly, we are of the view that the public interest in adhering to the arrangements set out above is not outweighed by any public interest in earlier disclosure.