

Cost of the Deputy Presiding Officers office

22 March 2011

Dear

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 11 January in which you asked,

The total annual cost of running the deputy presiding officer's office (including salaries, office running costs and travel)

The total cost of running the DPO's office over the last five years, broken down by year

Please see the schedule below which breaks down the total employment costs, office staffing costs and travel and subsistence costs.

Deputy Presiding Officer Office	Employment costs	Staff Costs	Travel and subsistence - includes international travel undertaken as Deputy Presiding Officer	Total cost, per year
	£	£	£	£
2005-2006	33,431	54,829	5,879	94,139
2006-2007	33,890	46,223	1,915	82,028
2007-2008	34,104	15,538	2,365	52,007
2008-2009	34,718	8,932	2,069	45,719
2009-2010	35,562	5,315	3,185	44,062
Total cost since 2005	171,705	130,837	15,413	317,955

Employment costs include salary, national insurance and pension contributions for the Deputy Presiding Officer per year. Staff costs includes the total salary, national insurance and pension contributions for those staff whose work supports or has supported the work of the Deputy Presiding Officer.

During the Second Assembly (2005-06 and 2006-07 on the schedule), there was a designated Private Office for the Deputy Presiding Officer which had its

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own budget including provision for travel costs. At the beginning of the Third Assembly in 2007, the Assembly's Corporate Unit took over the responsibility for supporting for the Deputy Presiding Officer as part of a wider remit (supporting the Assembly Commission and Presiding Officer, corporate affairs and internal communication). As such, the 'Deputy Presiding Officer's Office' ceased to exist in 2007. You will see this is reflected in the costs from 2007.

Travel and subsistence includes costs for international travel where the Deputy Presiding Officer has attended conferences in their role as Deputy Presiding Officer. For example, in her capacity as the Deputy Presiding Officer, the current Deputy Presiding Officer has attended meetings at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as its Vice President, British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly conferences in her role on the Steering Committee, and CALRE meetings in her capacity as representative of the Presiding Officer.

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The code is published on our website at <http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm> If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me.

If you believe that I have not applied the Code correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, you may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive and Clerk at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay. Details of the Assembly's complaints principles are set out in the Code of Practice on Complaints available on the Internet at <http://www.assemblywales.org/conhome/con-complaint.htm> , please advise me if you wish to receive a printed copy.

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

Yours sincerely

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