

Standards Commissioner

12 June 2017

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 2 June in which you asked:

Please provide a copy of all written complaints received by the Standards Commissioner between 2011–12 and 2016–17.

The National Assembly for Wales (“the Assembly”) holds information relating to complaints received by the Standards Commissioner on the Standards Commissioner’s behalf. This is because the secretariat to the Standards Commissioner is comprised of staff employed by the National Assembly for Wales Commission.

Under section 3(2)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (“the Act”), “information is held by a public authority if ... it is held by the authority, otherwise than on behalf of another person”. So, the information held by the Assembly on behalf of another person (in this case on behalf of the Standards Commissioner) is not to be regarded as “held” by the Assembly for the purposes of the Act. In the circumstances, the Assembly is unable to disclose the information.

Whilst the Assembly is a public authority under the Act, the Standards Commissioner is not. As such, he is under no legal obligation to provide the information. However, you may be interested in the [Annual Reports](#) which are available on the Standards Commissioner’s website.

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

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our website at http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm

If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager
National Assembly for Wales**

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

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.assembly.wales/en/help/contact-the-assembly/con-complaint/Pages/con-complaint-procedure.aspx>. 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