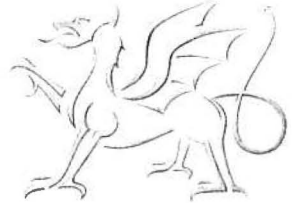


Sue Essex AM

*Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services
Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus*

DP 566/03-07



Our ref: WAQ 35357
Your ref:

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Nicholas Bourne AM
National Assembly for Wales
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24th May 2004

Dear Nicholas

WAQ 35357

In my holding reply to WAQ35357 I said I would write to you.

The following is a compilation of the cost of all legal services borne by the Welsh Assembly Government for each of the years since 1999. The costs include all external advice received and also all costs of running the Office of the Counsel General, including staff costs, training, and support services, representing the full cost of internal legal advice received.

The increase in costs over the period reflects the growth in secondary legislation made by the Assembly. Expenditure in 2003-04 reflects the non-recurrent legal costs associated with the Merlin contract which should deliver savings of £200 million over its 10 year life.

1999 – 2000 £1,912k
2000 – 2001 £2,423k
2001 – 2002 £3,118k
2002 – 2003 £3,605k
2003 – 2004 £4,621k

Best wishes,

Sue Essex

