



Council Tax

6 April 2023

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 14 March in which you asked:

Would you be able to provide the following information, please?

- 1. How many Senedd Members own second homes in Wales?*
- 2. Do all Senedd Members pay the increased rate of council tax on their second homes?*
- 3. Are any Senedd Members exempt from paying council tax for their second homes?*
- 4. If any Senedd Members are exempt, what are the grounds for exemption?*

Please find our response to your request below.

- 1. How many Senedd Members own second homes in Wales?*

Members of the Senedd must register the land and property they own on their **Register of Members' Interests (senedd.wales)**, under 8. *Category 8: Land and property.*

As this information is already available, your request is subject to section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means.

- 2. Do all Senedd Members pay the increased rate of council tax on their second homes?*

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1SN
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 200 6544

E-bost/Email: Ceisiadau-gwybodaeth@senedd.cymru
Information-request@senedd.wales

We only hold information in relation to your request where Members claim for Council tax in accordance with chapter 4, *Residential Accommodation Expenditure* of the Determination on Members' Pay and Allowances ("the Determination").

All expenses claimed by Members under this provision are published on the **Allowance Publication System**.

In order to find this information on our **allowances system**, please follow these instructions:

1. Select the financial years you wish to search.
2. To select a specific Member of the Senedd, select 'MEMBER PICKER' and view the list of previous and current Members and select the specific Member(s). If you do not select a Member, all Members will be displayed.
3. To select the specific expense type, select the 'ALLOWANCE TYPE PICKER', select allowance type and select 'Additional Cost Allowance' and select 'Cardiff Accommodation Council Tax'.
4. Select 'Search'
5. All claims are published on our allowances system **three months in arrears** and will show in the financial year to which the cost relates. If you are unable to follow these instructions, please let me know.

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.

We do not hold recorded information in relation to second homes owned or rented by Members in cases where no claim is made under the Determination.

3. *Are any Senedd Members exempt from paying council tax for their second homes?*

We hold no recorded information relating to this part of your request.

4. *If any Senedd Members are exempt, what are the grounds for exemption?*

Not applicable, see our response to question 3.

Yours sincerely

**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
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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