



Cost of the Senedd

30 November 2021

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 01 November in which you asked:

- 1. I would like to know the annual cost of running the Senedd.*
- 2. To include all staff costs, heating, lighting, security, special advisors, SM salaries and pensions, i.e. all direct and indirect costs of all Senedd location - in and out of Cardiff. Clearly this information should be readily available.*
- 3. I would also like to know the anticipated extra costs of increasing the number of SMs in Line with Drakeford's desires. Clearly, such a proposal will have been costed for viability.*

Please find our response to your request below.

1. I would like to know the annual cost of running the Senedd.

The information requested can be found on our website, as part of our [2020-21 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts](#), from page 151 onwards.

Please note that these are figures for the 2020-21 financial year and the election costs of £471,000 presented in the report are one off pre-election costs.

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

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1SN
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 200 6224

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

- 2. To include all staff costs, heating, lighting, security, special advisors, SM salaries and pensions, i.e. all direct and indirect costs of all Senedd location - in and out of Cardiff. Clearly this information should be readily available.**

Please see our response to question 1.

- 3. I would also like to know the anticipated extra costs of increasing the number of SMs in Line with Drakeford's desires. Clearly, such a proposal will have been costed for viability.**

The Senedd has not taken any decisions on increasing the number of Members and there is no specific proposal which can be costed. However, such matters may be considered by the **Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform**, which was established on 6 October:

- to consider the conclusions previously reached by the Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform in the Fifth Senedd; and
- by 31 May 2022, to make recommendations for policy instructions for a Welsh Government Bill on Senedd Reform.

Any proposed legislation would need to be accompanied by detailed costings, in the usual way, as part of the supporting documents required to accompany proposed legislation.

Previously, the Senedd Commission established the independent Expert Panel on Electoral Reform to provide robust, politically impartial advice on the number of Members needed to effectively represent the people of Wales, the most suitable electoral system, and the minimum voting age. The Expert Panel published its report – **A Parliament that Works for Wales** - in December 2017. Part 2 of the report sets out the Expert Panel's findings which includes estimated costs for an additional 20 and 30 Members.

The Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform was then established in September 2019 to examine the recommendations of the Expert Panel. The Committee published its report – **Senedd reform: the next steps in September 2020**. The report included estimated additional transitional costs and estimated additional ongoing costs for typical non-election years from 2027-28 onwards and typical election years from 2031-32 onwards. The detailed estimates and underlying assumptions provided to the Committee by the Senedd Commission are set out in Annex E of the report.

A summary of the estimated costs are included here:

	Transitional costs (£000)	Ongoing costs: typical non-election year from 2027-28 onwards (£000)	Ongoing costs: typical election year from 2031-32 onwards (£000)
Additional 20 Members	2,378	7,405 – 8,604	8,350 – 9,489
Additional 30 Members	3,230	10,387 – 11,682	11,672 – 12,905

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
Cardiff
CF99 1SN