

Mental Health Services

22 March 2019

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 25 February in which you asked:

- 1. Between 2010 and 2019, what has been the yearly budget for mental health services in the Welsh Assembly made available for MPs and staff. These services would include, but not limited to, items such as salary for counsellors, marketing and advertising for mental health provisions, workshops, and other relevant mental health expenditure. Can this information be provided on a spreadsheet that shows the year, the year's budget, and the categories of expenditure eg salary, marketing, etc etc.*
- 2. Between 2010 and 2019, how many staff were working within the mental health service in Welsh Assembly. Can this be broken down by year by occupation on a spreadsheet eg 2011 three counsellors, two PAs, etc etc*
- 3. Is the Welsh Assembly aware of the mental health support provided by political parties and could it disclose what the arrangements for each elected party are? For example, Labour providing weekly counselling for MPs or Green Party investing in mental health workshops? If this cannot be answered, could you instead provide me with information explaining how many MPs have taken time off due to mental health reasons between 2010 and 2019?*
- 4. Between 2010 and 2019, how many MPs and staff were enrolled on any mental health support provided by Welsh Assembly?*

Please find our response to your questions below.

- 1. Between 2010 and 2019, what has been the yearly budget for mental health services in the Welsh Assembly made available for MPs and staff. These services would include, but not limited to, items such as salary for counsellors, marketing and advertising for mental health provisions, workshops, and other relevant mental health expenditure. Can this information be provided on a spreadsheet that shows the year, the year's budget, and the categories of expenditure eg salary, marketing, etc etc.*

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We don't have an assigned budget for mental health learning.

The training provided to Assembly Commission staff, Assembly Members (AMs) and support staff (AMSS) (as captured in our response to question 4) cost a total of £48,525.

- 2. Between 2010 and 2019, how many staff were working within the mental health service in Welsh Assembly. Can this be broken down by year by occupation on a spreadsheet eg 2011 three counsellors, two PAs, etc etc*

The number of staff working health and wellbeing are:

2010-present	1 Health and Safety and Wellbeing Manager
2010-present	1 In house Occupational Health Service (2 days a week)

Assembly Commission staff, AMs and AMSS also have access to a MINDFUL network. MINDFUL is the Mental Health and Wellbeing workplace equality network at the National Assembly for Wales and was established in 2017.

- 3. Is the Welsh Assembly aware of the mental health support provided by political parties and could it disclose what the arrangements for each elected party are? For example, Labour providing weekly counselling for MPs or Green Party investing in mental health workshops? If this cannot be answered, could you instead provide me with information explaining how many MPs have taken time off due to mental health reasons between 2010 and 2019?*

We do not hold any information relating to this part of your request. You may wish to direct this question to the individual political parties.

- 4. Between 2010 and 2019, how many MPs and staff were enrolled on any mental health support provided by Welsh Assembly?*

The professional development programme that is in place for Assembly Members and their staff has provided a range of training interventions since 2011. Details of those that are relevant to this request are [attached](#). They cover a wide range of activities aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge in Assembly Members' offices in dealing with their constituents' concerns, or difficult issues they may need to deal with or understand in the course of their work as well as supporting individuals' mental health needs.

Assembly Members and Assembly Members Support Staff

Course	Delegates	Number
2012		
Emotional contacts	AMSS	18
Suicide - understanding, prevention and best practice	AMSS	1
Emotional contacts	AMSS	5
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	2
2011		
Managing challenging behaviour	AMSS	12
Managing challenging behaviour	AMSS	11
Managing challenging behaviour	AMSS	8
2013		
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	2
Work-life stress management	AMSS	1
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	5
2014		
Managing challenging behaviour	AMSS	8
Counselling skills 1	AMSS	1
Resilience and Mindfulness (8 sessions)	AM	5
Suicide intervention	AMSS	4
2015		
Resilience and Mindfulness	AMSS	7
Mindfulness eLearning	AMSS	1
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	11
Resilience and Mindfulness (8 sessions)	AMSS	6
2016		
Mental Health Today conference	AMSS	1
Introduction to Resilience and Emotional Intelligence	AMSS	unknown
Understanding the Autism Spectrum	AMSS	3
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	5
Conversations with vulnerable people	AMSS	7
Compassionate Approached to Mental Health Conference	AMSS	1
Mental Health Awareness	AMSS	6
2017		
Resilience and Mindfulness	AM	1
Building resilience	AMSS	3
Resilience and Mindfulness (8 sessions)	AM	6
Counselling	AM & AMSS	unknown
Counselling	AM & AMSS	unknown
Counselling	AM & AMSS	unknown
Counselling	AM & AMSS	unknown
2018		
Mental Health Awareness	AMSS	5
Building emotional resilience	AMSS	5
Building resilience	AMSS	1

Suicide intervention	AMSS	4
Building resilience	AMSS	3
Suicide intervention	AMSS	7
Mental Health Awareness	AMSS	5
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	3
Dealing with challenging situations	AMSS	10
2019		
ASSIST Training	AM	1
Wellbeing seminar	AM & AMSS	4
Mental Health First Aid	AMSS	1
Wellbeing seminar	AMSS	4

Assembly Commission staff participated in the following training.

Course	Delegates
Developing Resilience Organisational Conference	Various staff - Unknown
2015	
Mind for Better Mental Health	Various delegates - unknown
2017	
Improving Mental Health, Wellbeing and Reducing Stress in the Workplace for Managers	Mental Health Awareness Ambassadors - 13 x units
Emotional Intelligence and Resilience	Mental Health Awareness Ambassadors - 9 x units
Understanding Mental Health & Improving Wellbeing	Human Resources team - 10 x units
2019	
Resilience Seminar	Various - 9 attendees
Mental Health First Aid	Various - 7 attendees
2 x Mental Health Awareness	Various

Yours sincerely

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

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 Assembly'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@assembly.wales or in writing to

The National Assembly for Wales

Governance and Assurance

Cardiff Bay

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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