

Dame Gill Morgan DBE  
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol • Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Angela Burns AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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7 March 2011

Dear Angela,

You recently tabled WAQ57207 in which you asked the First Minister for the total number of Welsh Assembly Government staff in each of the last five years. The First Minister has asked me to respond.

I provided a detailed report on 29 April 2010 to the Finance Committee setting out the numbers of staff each year over the past 10 years, together with the principal reasons for the changes in the numbers year-on-year. This report has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website and can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/civilservice/managementstructure/permasec/devcivilservicewales/?lang=en>

For ease of reference, I have reproduced the key staffing table from the report in the attached annex.

After a period of growth, largely due to mergers and increased responsibilities, Assembly Government staffing levels are contracting, due to a combination of increasing budgetary constraints and greater efficiency in the way that we plan and deliver services. Our ongoing Enabling Government programme will radically change the way that a broad range of services are delivered over the next 3-5 years, from standardised grants processes across portfolio areas through to the increased delivery of support, advisory and application services through online processes. Our greater collaboration with other Welsh public sector organisations will also lead to greater efficiencies and a more streamlined approach. This will, in turn, assist us towards our goal of a seamless public sector which engages fully with the people of Wales, recognises their needs and engages with them to deliver what they want and expect from us.

Our staffing complement at the end of February 2011 was 5,527.4, full time equivalent (5,825 headcount), a 9.5% reduction since the end of March 2010. We



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are currently engaged in an early release scheme for staff who wish to leave the Assembly Government and I expect this to result in a further significant reduction in staffing levels. Over the next three years I expect our staffing levels to reduce by around 350-450, equating to a reduction of between 14% and 16% over the staffing level in March 2010.

Yours Sincerely



**GILL MORGAN**



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Growth in Assembly Government Civil Service since 1999-2000

Year	Merged in	Headcount in/out	Increase	Total FTE
1999/2000				2,577
2000/2001	Wales Office of Research & Dev't Wales European Funding Office Welsh Health Common Services Health Professions Wales Wales Trade International	8 45 68 67 9 <hr/> 197	73	2,847
2001/2002	Welsh Drug & Alcohol Unit Farming & Rural Conservation Clinical Effectiveness Support	7 103 6 <hr/> 116	250	3,213
2002/2003	Care Standards Inspectorate Nursing & Midwifery Board Wales Export Association	230 22 2 <hr/> 254	57	3,524
2003/2004	NHS restructuring Rent Officer Service DAT team Structural Funds Unit	30 39 4 1 <hr/> 74	-14	3,584
2004-2005	Health Inspectorate Wales Council of Museums	30 4 <hr/> 34	133	3,751
2005-2006	CAFCASS Wales Youth Agency	145 13 <hr/> 158	311	4,220
2006-2007	Welsh Development Agency ELWa (Education & Training) Wales Tourist Board ACCAC DYSG Countryside Council (Tir Gofal) Sgrin Snowdonia National Park	942 426 168 88 6 87 8 6 <hr/> 1,731	-26	5,925
2007-2008	Basic Skills Agency Assembly Commission	17 -261 <hr/> -244	267	5,948
2008-2009	Marine Fisheries Agency	8	78	6,034
2009-2010	(No mergers this year)	0	174	6,208



Source: Assembly Government Records

**Growth in Assembly Government Civil Service since 1999-2000 (contd)**

Year	Merged In	Headcount in/out	Increase	Total FTE
2010-11 (Position at 27 April)	Local Government Data Unit	17	-125	6,123
	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee	14		
	North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee	9		
		40		
	Total since 1999/2000	2,368	1,173	

Source: Assembly Government Records

Note: Assembly Government records for mergers are based on individuals and show headcounts. Records for overall numbers, particularly in earlier years, are based on snapshots taken at different points in the year. The difference, which is the figure shown as a real increase, provides an indication of the real movement in civil servant numbers. The margin for error in this is approximately 5%, which reflects the average amount by which headcount numbers exceed the full time equivalent figures.

