

# John Sturrock QC

12/09/2012

## Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 20 July in which you asked,

- 1 - All correspondence with and relating to John Sturrock QC
- 2- How many training sessions has John Sturrock QC held with Assembly members
- 3 - How much has John Sturrock QC been paid by the Assembly commission
- 4 - The terms of reference regarding the work of John Sturrock QC

I will respond to each part of your request below.

**Q 2 and 3** - The training was provided by John Sturrock QC, founder and CEO of Core Solutions. Delivery has varied depending on identified training need. Sessions have been delivered to cross-party committees, party groups support staff and individual Assembly Members. A range of delivery techniques have been used, including traditional presentations, peer review, interactive discussion and learning, video feedback, practical workshops and executive coaching. John Sturrock is a recognised leader in these fields of training.

Each session was tailored to meet the identified needs of those participating. A significant amount of preparatory work was undertaken by the trainer before each session. The total of payments made to Core Solutions for designing, developing, preparing for and delivering the ten training sessions was £10,500.

**Q4** The individual sessions delivered by John Sturrock QC were developed in line with the specific objectives identified by the participants.

The aim of the training was to provide bespoke training support in scrutiny techniques for Assembly Members and support staff. The sessions, which have been delivered to cross-party committees, party groups, support staff and individual Members have focused on strengthening the scrutiny of Welsh

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Government policy, finance and legislation, which are key functions of the National Assembly for Wales.

**Q1** – The first part of your request asks for all correspondence with and relating to John Sturrock QC. We can confirm that we hold such correspondence. In part, its content is as summarised above. However, in addition, there is miscellaneous internal correspondence, between Assembly staff and between them and Assembly Members and their staffs, and between Assembly staff and Mr Sturrock. These exchanges comprise detailed discussions relating to the content and delivery of the training in question.

The disclosure of this information would, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer of the Assembly as “qualified person” under section 36(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, inhibit, or be likely to inhibit, the free and frank provision of advice, the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation or would otherwise prejudice or be likely to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

We are also of the opinion, having regard to the nature of the correspondence in question, that there is not sufficient public interest in its disclosure to justify dis-applying the exemption in question.

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The code is published on our website at [http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about\\_us-commission\\_assembly\\_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm)

If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Alison Rutherford**  
**Access to Information Coordinator**  
**National Assembly for Wales**

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you believe that I have not applied the Code correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, you may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive and Clerk at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay. Details of the

Assembly's complaints principles are set out in the Code of Practice on Complaints available on the Internet at <http://www.assemblywales.org/conhome/con-complaint.htm>. Please advise me if you wish to receive a printed copy.

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

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