

# Cost of the National Assembly for Wales

8 May 2017

## Request for Information.



Thank you for your request received on 18 April in which you asked for the following:

- 1. Please provide a breakdown of how much it costs to maintain the Welsh Assembly on an annual basis.*
- 2. Please provide a copy of the last years audited accounts.*
- 3. Please include salaries of Assembly Members, their clerical aides, all clerical aides involved in the management of the building, and the day to day working of the Assembly.*
- 4. Please include the cost of external consultees and consultants specifically engaged to advise the Assembly, whether it be advice to the Assembly as a whole or individual Members/Ministers*

A response to your questions is provided below.

- 1. Please provide a breakdown of how much it costs to maintain the Welsh Assembly on an annual basis.*

The figures requested are all published on our [website](#), as part of our Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

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.

- 2. Please provide a copy of the last years audited accounts.*

Please see my response to question 1.

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[Assembly-AccessToInformation@assembly.wales](mailto:Assembly-AccessToInformation@assembly.wales)

- 3. Please include salaries of Assembly Members, their clerical aides, all clerical aides involved in the management of the building, and the day to day working of the Assembly.*

I have split my response into three parts.

*3a. Salaries of Assembly Members and their clerical aides (support staff)*

The [Remuneration Board](#) of the National Assembly for Wales is the independent body responsible for setting the pay, pensions and allowances of Assembly Members and their staff. The total spent on Assembly Members and support staff salaries is published in our Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts. See section 'Notes to Accounts' (page 110) of the 2015-16 [Annual report and accounts](#). The 2016-17 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be published in July.

*3b. Salaries of clerical aides (Assembly staff) involved in the management of the building.*

During 2015-16, £940,000 was spent on the staffing costs of the Estates and Facilities Management team.

*3c. Salaries of clerical aides (all Assembly Commission staff) involved in the day to day working of the Assembly.*

The corporate body, called the National Assembly for Wales Commission (created by the Government of Wales Act 2006) has responsibility for the provision of property, staff and services to support the Assembly Members. Again, the annual cost of the staff involved in the day to day working of the Assembly is published in the annual report (link provided above).

As this information is 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.

- 4. Please include the cost of external consultees and consultants specifically engaged to advise the Assembly, whether it be advice to the Assembly as a whole or individual Members/Ministers*

Again, I have split my response into three parts.

*4a. the cost of external consultees and consultants specifically engaged to advise the Assembly.*

For the 2015-16 period, £60,000 was spent on consultancy.

The Assembly Commission has appointed advisers to provide independent, constructive challenge to the Assembly Commission. Although not strictly consultees, their remuneration is published in our annual report (link provided above) under the section - *Independent Advisers and Committee members*.

*4b. the cost of external consultees and consultants specifically engaged to advise an Assembly Member.*

Assembly Members are entitled to resources to employ staff and run offices in their constituencies so that they can deal with issues and cases raised by the people they represent. They are also entitled to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred when it has been necessary to stay away from their main home overnight when carrying out official Assembly duties.

The rules surrounding what they are entitled to claim for are contained within a 'Determination' [National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board Determination on Members' Pay and Allowances 2016](#).

Claims will broadly fall under one of three main allowance types:

- Office Costs Allowance (i.e. office expenses related to their duties as an Assembly Member)
- Additional Costs Allowance (i.e. expenses incurred in staying overnight away from their main home for the purpose of performing their duties as an Assembly Member)
- Travel Costs Allowance (i.e. travel expenses incurred by Assembly Members due to their Assembly duties)

Under the 'Office costs allowance' category, there is a specific allowance for 'Consultants'. Expenses are published quarterly and you can search the [Assembly Members' allowances database](#), using the instructions provided below.

1. Click to choose the year and month(s). (If you do not select a month, it will return a search for the whole year).

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Year:  From Month:  To Month:

2. Click to choose an Assembly Member. (If you do not click on a particular Assembly Member, it will return a search for all Members.)

2. Click to choose an Assembly Member. (If you do not click on a particular Assembly Member, it will return a search for all Members.\*) **Help**

3. Click to choose the allowance you would like to view - *Office Costs Allowance*.

3. Click to choose the allowance you would like to view. (If you do not select a particular allowance, it will return a search for all types of allowances.\*) **Help**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Costs Allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Costs Allowance              | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Refurbish 2016                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mileage                | <input type="checkbox"/> Party Leaders' Allowance (Office Costs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Start Up 2016                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Travel        | <input type="checkbox"/> UK Travel                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Centrally funded security costs 2016 Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Travel          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardiff Overnight Stay Allowance        |   |

4. Click to find the type of expenditure – *Consultancy*.

4. Click to find the type of expenditure (If you do not select a particular expenditure, it will return a search for all expenditures.\*) **Help**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountancy Services     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Cleaning                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Advertising             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Support   | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Cleaning Materials           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Contents Insurance           | <input type="checkbox"/> Photocopying                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Cards           | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Electricity                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Maintenance     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Equipment - Lease            | <input type="checkbox"/> Postage                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Fees          | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Equipment - Purchase - IT    | <input type="checkbox"/> Presswork                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consultancy              | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Equipment - Purchase - Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment Advertising       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Adaptions     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Gas                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Stand              | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Legal Expenses               | <input type="checkbox"/> Software Program              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Test/Glasses         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Maintenance                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Recruitment Advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locksmith                | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Removal Costs                | <input type="checkbox"/> Subscriptions                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Members Training         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Rent                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Staff Training        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Fees          | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Rent Service Charges         | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery Advertising           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Telephone         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Security                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery Room Rental           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters              | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Stationery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tickets                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers/magazines     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Sublet                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Translation                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Business Rates    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Telephone                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Collection              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Central Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Office TV licence                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Cleaner Salary    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Water Rates                  |  |

Click 'Find' at the bottom of the page.

Please note that expenses are published three months in arrears. Personal data may be excluded where it would contravene any of the data protection principles contained within the Data Protection Act 1998.

Additionally, the Remuneration Board allows Assembly Members to '*...claim up to £2,500 per annum in order to commission discrete pieces of research work from external sources and to permit Members to engage with their constituents. Feedback from Members who have previously accessed the Policy and Research and Communication Fund (PRCF) was positive and the Board agreed to monitor take-up and consider options for its improvement.*'

The Assembly Members who have used this fund, and for that purpose, are published in their [annual report](#) – see *section 1.13 Policy and Research and Communication Fund*. The total amount spent in 2015-16 was £17,048.82.

As some of the information requested is 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.

*4c. the cost of external consultees and consultants specifically engaged to advise a Minister.*

The Welsh Government will respond to you directly as they have responsibility for Ministerial matters.

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

**Freedom of Information Manager  
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.assembly.wales/en/help/contact-the-assembly/con-complaint/Pages/con-complaint-procedure.aspx>. 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