

Severance payments to Senedd Members

23 March 2021

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 3 March in which you asked:

Hello, further to a phone call today I was advised to e-mail you and request under the Freedom of Information Act

- 1. all the Information you have on the amount's paid in severance payments to all Senedd Members retiring or voted out in the upcoming elections May 6th, 2021.*
- 2. Could you please also provide annual Payments made to Senedd Members? I know the basic from May 2021 their BASE salary increases to £69,272? But could you let me know how much the ADDITIONAL salary will bring the total payments to for each member? Obviously different rates for different positions within the Senedd?*
- 3. Could you please also provide any additional payments made for pensions etc?*
- 4. Can you then please give me information on the cost for Individual SM's allowances for Members' Business Support team's 2019-2020? and information of Individual members' expenses claims for 2019-2020?*

Please find our response to your request below.

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

1. No payments have been made in relation to your request.
2. The rules surrounding what Members of the Senedd are entitled to claim for are contained within the **Determination**.
Paragraph 3.1.4 (page 15) lists the additional annual salary Members who hold additional roles are entitled to receive.
3. The Senedd holds information relating to the Members' Pension Scheme on behalf of the Trustees of the Members' Pension Scheme.

Under section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act '*information is held by a public authority if—*

(a) it is held by the authority, otherwise than on behalf of another person'.

So, information held by the Senedd on behalf of another person (in this case on behalf of the Trustees) is not to be regarded as 'held' by the Senedd for the purposes of the Act. In the circumstances, the Senedd is unable to disclose this information.

If you wish to request the disclosure of information not already published, you may wish to contact the Trustees directly at the following address, bearing in mind, however that the Trustees are not a 'public authority' under the Freedom of Information Act and would therefore not be under any legal obligation to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests.

The Scheme Secretary
Senedd Members' of the Senedd Pension Scheme
c/o Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Or by email to **Donna.davies@senedd.wales**

4. The rules surrounding what Members of the Senedd are entitled to claim for are contained within the '**Determination**' and all expenses are published on our **expenses database**.

Yours sincerely

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

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