

Cost of the Remuneration Board

8 April 2021

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 9 March in which you asked:

What has been the total cost of the Remuneration Board to date during the 5th Senedd. Could you detail all costs on travel, accommodation and incidental expenditure in each financial year. Could this also be broken down individually?

As provided for in section 11 of the **National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010**, the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd (the "Board") must, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, lay before the Senedd an annual report on its activities, including its use of resources (including travel, accommodation and incidental expenditure), during that financial year. The Board usually publishes its annual report in July of each year.

All annual reports published by the current and previous Board are available at <https://www.remunerationboard.wales/annual-report/>.

As this information is already available, 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.

The report for this financial year 2020-21, is expected to be published by the end of July 2021.

As there is planned publication of the information you require, we will not provide the information at this stage as you will be able to view the information, in full, when it is

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published. The reasons that we will not be providing the information at this stage are covered by section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Further reasoning for the engagement of the exemption is set out in the **Annex** below.

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

Annex

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

(1) Information is exempt information if:

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not);

b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such the public interest test needs to be considered.

The National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010 requires that the Remuneration Board publishes an annual report (as well as agendas, papers and minutes of meetings).

The Board's practice is to publish the information you seek as part of its annual report and this is expected to occur in July. The timing of the disclosure is often the main factor we must take into account when considering the public interest in maintaining this exemption. We consider the existing arrangement for the publication of the annual report to be a reasonable timescale in terms of the gap between your request and the expected publication of the requested information.

We cannot see any circumstances that suggest that there is a public interest in earlier disclosure of the information, in this particular case, than in accordance with these arrangements. Accordingly, we are of the view that the public interest in adhering to the arrangements set out above is not outweighed by any public interest in earlier disclosure.