

# Scrutiny of the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24

November 2022



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# Scrutiny of the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24

November 2022



# About the Committee

The Committee was established on 14 July 2021. Its remit can be found at:  
[www.senedd.wales/SeneddLIC](http://www.senedd.wales/SeneddLIC)

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Current Committee membership:



**Committee Chair:  
David Rees MS**  
Welsh Labour



**Janet Finch-Saunders MS**  
Welsh Conservatives



**Peredur Owen Griffiths MS**  
Plaid Cymru



**Llyr Gruffydd MS\***  
Plaid Cymru



**Joyce Watson MS**  
Welsh Labour

\* Llyr Gruffydd MS attended as a substitute for Rhys ap Owen MS during the course of this inquiry.

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Rhys ab Owen MS was also a member of the Committee during this inquiry; however, he did not participate in any of the considerations of this inquiry.



**Rhys ab Owen MS**  
Independent Plaid Cymru  
Member

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## Conclusions and Recommendations

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**Conclusion 2.** In general, the Committee is satisfied the financial estimate for 2023-24 is consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Commission of its functions in relation to devolved Welsh elections and devolved Welsh referendums.....Page 16

**Conclusion 3.** The Committee would not want to see an increase to this baseline over the course of the next few years and would expect that there would not be a significant increase to the baseline when the next set of Welsh elections is due to be administered. Furthermore, when the Commission's activities in relation to areas such as Senedd reform conclude, the Committee would like to see a reduction in the Estimate baseline.....Page 16

**Recommendation 1.** The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission includes actual and projected outturns when submitting its Main Estimate to the Committee. These outturns should match the format of the Main Estimate to allow for effective scrutiny.....Page 16

**Recommendation 2.** The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission develops a set of measurements to evaluate whether the increased investment in regulation offers value for money.....Page 16

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## 1. Introduction

This is the Llywydd's Committee's report on the Electoral Commission's financial estimates for 2023-24.

### **Background context to the scrutiny of the Electoral Commission's financial estimates**

**1.** The Electoral Commission's work on devolved Welsh elections and devolved Welsh referendums is paid for from the Welsh Consolidated Fund. The Senedd's Llywydd's Committee is responsible for scrutinising the amount of money requested for this purpose as set out in financial estimates submitted to the Committee each year by the Electoral Commission. The Llywydd's Committee is also responsible for scrutinising the Electoral Commission's five-year plans relating to its work on devolved Welsh elections and devolved Welsh referendums.

**2.** The Senedd's Standing Orders 20.20A and 20.20B set out that:

*"The Electoral Commission must submit an estimate of its income and expenditure that is attributable to the exercise of its functions in relation to devolved Welsh elections and referendums, as required under paragraph 16A of Schedule 1 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, to the Llywydd's committee under SO 18B.2 as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 1 October."* (20.20A)

*"The Llywydd's Committee must, having:*

- (i) consulted and taken into account any advice given to it by the Welsh Ministers, and;*
- (ii) had regard to any reports made to it by the Comptroller and Auditor General and to any recommendations contained in the reports;*

*consider and lay before the Senedd, no later than 22 November, a report including the estimate, with any modifications which the Committee, having consulted and taken into account any representations made by the Electoral Commission, considers appropriate."*<sup>1</sup> (20.20B)

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<sup>1</sup> Senedd, Standing Orders of the Welsh Parliament, Standing Orders 20.20A and 20.20B.



3. At certain times (i.e. following a Senedd election or at the request of the Llywydd's Committee ('the Committee')) the Electoral Commission ('the Commission') must also submit to the Committee a five-year plan setting out the Commission's aims and objectives relating to devolved Welsh elections and referendums in the ensuing five-year period. The Committee considered and approved the plan in its November 2021 report and notes that the Commission made a number of minor changes to this plan during 2021-22.
4. The Committee must scrutinise any estimates and plans submitted to it by the Commission to ensure consistency with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Commission of their functions in relation to devolved Welsh elections and devolved Welsh referendums.
5. The estimate laid by the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 20.20B will then appear in the Annual Budget Motion, for agreement by the Senedd.<sup>2</sup>

### **Submission of the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24**

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6. The Commission submitted its financial estimate for 2023-24 to the Committee on 30 September 2022.
7. The Committee met on 7 November 2022 to scrutinise the estimate and plan. The meeting was attended by the following representatives of the Commission:
  - Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens CBE (Electoral Commissioner for Wales)
  - Shaun McNally CBE (Chief Executive and Accounting Officer)
  - Kieran Rix (Finance Director)
  - Rhydian Thomas (Head of the Electoral Commission in Wales)
8. The Committee must consult the Welsh Ministers on any estimates and plans submitted to it by the Commission and have regard to any advice provided by the Welsh Ministers before deciding if it is satisfied with the estimates and plans. The Committee shared the Commission's estimate for 2023-24 with the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution and also the Minister for Finance and Local Government on 3 October 2022. The advice of the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution was received on 19 October 2022.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See [Standing Order 20](#) for an explanation of the Senedd's budget process.

<sup>3</sup> Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, [Letter from Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution](#), 19 October 2022.

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## **Agreement of the Finance Committee's Statement of Principles**

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**9.** The Senedd's Finance Committee has published a set of principles, known as the **Statement of Principles**, that it expects bodies funded directly from the Welsh Consolidated Fund to have regard to when making budget proposals e.g. that Budget requests should be set in the context of the long term financial funding situation in Wales and funding pressures in the wider public sector. The Commission is one such body and was asked to adhere to these principles when preparing its financial estimate for 2023-24. The Committee has also agreed to adopt the Finance Committee's statement of principles, to underpin its scrutiny of the Commission's financial estimates.

## 2. Scrutiny of the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24

This chapter summarises the Committee's scrutiny of the Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24.

**10.** The total of the estimate submitted by the Commission for the financial year 2023-24 was £1.414 million. This equates to a 0.4 per cent decrease compared with the estimate for 2022-23 (although this does not account for the additional funding sought by the Commission via supplementary budget which is due to be considered in February 2023 – which if approved means it would be an 8.2% decrease). The estimate is at Annex A.

### Commission Accounts 2021-22

**11.** The Commission published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2021-22<sup>4</sup> and laid this before the Senedd on 19 July 2022. This included a Wales (devolved) annual report <sup>5</sup>for 2021-22, which outlined the Commission's key achievements in Wales and provided an expenditure breakdown on the use of its resources relating to Welsh activities.

**12.** The report noted that during 2021-22, the Commission utilised £1.65m of resources from the £1.75m available. This represents an underspend of £96k (or 5.5%).

**13.** The Commission presents its expenditure under two headings: staffing £1.15m; and Campaigns £0.5m. This differs to how it presents its estimates. The Committee noted that this makes it difficult to analyse outturn on the same basis as the estimate submissions.

**14.** The Committee asked the Commission how it was treating the £96,000 underspend. Kieran Rix, Director of Finance and Corporate Services at the Commission explained that this underspend occurred as:

*"... a result of lower than expected costs for producing guidance and for campaigns and depreciation, and therefore we were able to not draw down*

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<sup>4</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/about-us/our-plans-and-priorities/annual-report-and-accounts-2021/22](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/about-us/our-plans-and-priorities/annual-report-and-accounts-2021/22)

<sup>5</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/about-us/our-plans-and-priorities/annual-report-and-accounts-2021/22/wales-devolved-annual-report-2021/22](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/about-us/our-plans-and-priorities/annual-report-and-accounts-2021/22/wales-devolved-annual-report-2021/22)

*that funding. So, that's funding that has stayed in Wales and not come to the commission.*"<sup>6</sup>

**15.** The Committee also noted that while outturn data is published in the annual report in accordance with accounting guidelines, it is not included in the annual estimate to the Committee. The Committee welcomed the commitment from Shaun McNally to provide projected outturns for the current financial year when submitting its Main Estimate so the Committee can scrutinise its spending to date.

## **The Electoral Commission Estimate 2023-24**

**16.** The total contribution required by the Commission from the Welsh Consolidated Fund for 2023-24 is estimated to be £1.414 million. This amounts to a £5,000 decrease (0.4%) in cash terms compared to the Commission's estimate for 2022-23 (although this does not reflect the request made by the Commission for funding via a supplementary estimate in 2022-23, which will be considered as part of the February 2023 supplementary budget).

**17.** The Committee noted that the reduction in budget was smaller than may have been expected given that last year's Estimate included funds to administer the May 2022 Local Elections in Wales. When asked about this negligible reduction Shaun McNally set out that there were a couple of main drivers to the costs including HM Treasury guidance on how to treat and allow for inflation (which sets the level at 3.1 per cent), the work supporting electoral reform in Wales and the work being undertaken in terms of regulation<sup>7</sup>.

**18.** In terms of electoral reform, Rhydian Thomas set out that given the possibility of 'two pretty comprehensive pieces of legislation potentially going through' (as a result of the White paper on Elections from the Welsh Government and separately Senedd reform) that the Commission:

*"... want to make sure that we've got the resource that is required to scrutinise and to respond to those two pretty significant pieces of work in the detail that is required."*<sup>8</sup>

**19.** The Committee noted that the Estimate included £187,000 for regulation activities, which is an increase of 70 per cent (£77,000) on the funding for the previous year. The Committee questioned the Commission on the reasons for this increase, Shaun McNally explained that this increase was aimed at increasing the resources available to:

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<sup>6</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, paragraph 55

<sup>7</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, paragraph 69

<sup>8</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, paragraph 71

*"...help and to support campaigners in political parties to comply with the regulations rather than pivot to enforcement, and that requires an investment up front."<sup>9</sup>*

**20.** The Committee was keen to understand whether this would be a one off cost in relation to changing the approach to regulation or it would be a reoccurring cost. Shaun McNally explained that it was aimed at culture change, but that he would not want to commit to it being a one-off cost as he would want the Commission to:

*"... move more into the area of help and support to encourage compliance, rather than focus on after the event with enforcement for failure to comply with the regulations."<sup>10</sup>*

**21.** The Committee noted the comments from the Commission in this regard, but had some concerns about how to ensure that there is value regarding this significantly higher investment in regulation. The Committee welcomed the Commission's undertaking to provide further information on this.

**22.** The Estimate reflects the Office of Budget Responsibility's inflation forecast of 3.1%. The Committee questioned the Commission on what consideration had been given to possible efficiencies to mitigate inflationary cost pressures to ensure the estimate is in line with public spending expectations. The Committee noted the mitigatory steps outlined by the Commission such as moving to more energy efficient lighting and cloud computing, and welcomed the assurances given that the Commission did not envisage submitting a Supplementary Estimate in 2023-24.

**23.** The depreciation costs in the Commission's estimate had increased by £52,000 (69.3%) in cash terms compared to the 2022-23 Estimate due to the increased capital budget. The memorandum from the Commission says:

*"The capital delivery increases, are due to our new technology plans of refitting and moving to new larger building leases for our Cardiff and Belfast offices. reflects both any fit-out costs and the total value today of the whole lease."<sup>11</sup>*

**24.** The Committee noted that the Commission had taken on a lease for a larger premises. The Committee expressed a concern that this may be out of sync with the move to greater

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<sup>9</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, paragraph 69

<sup>10</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, paragraph 74

<sup>11</sup> Electoral Commission memorandum, October 2022

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levels of homeworking across organisations more generally. Rhydian Thomas explained that the current office is not sufficient to accommodate the level of staff currently employed by the Electoral Commission in Wales. Furthermore, Kieran Rix set out that the Commission is:

*"...increasingly trying to recruit outside of London. That's across the UK, but we do see Cardiff as a particularly kind of fruitful area to be recruiting in, and as a kind of centre to recruit to. So, we're looking to grow the office so that it can support significantly more staff, not just the Wales team, but colleagues from all functions across the commission, and that's one of the reasons why we want to invest in the Wales office."<sup>12</sup>*

**25.** The Committee confirmed with the Commission that the office costs of any staff based in the Wales Office but not directly working for the Welsh Electoral commission is apportioned to the appropriate part of the UK.

## Reports from the Commission

**26.** During the last financial year, the Commission produced reports on the early voting pilot; and Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act (SEW), which extended the franchise to 16-17 year old and foreign nationals; for the local elections in May 2022.

### Early Voting Pilot report

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**27.** The Commission found that the pilots were well run by Returning Officers. The report further stated:

*There were no notable issues on the advance voting days or on Thursday 5 May and voters were satisfied with their experience of voting. However, the results indicate that the opportunity to vote in-person ahead of polling day does not, on its own, boost turnout significantly.<sup>13</sup>*

**28.** The report noted "while the turnout of early voters was low, the option was welcomed by those that used it and it does offer an additional choice for voters".

**29.** The Commission's evaluation identified several specific areas that need to be addressed if a further roll out of advance voting is considered.

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<sup>12</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022 paragraph 92

<sup>13</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/wales-local-council-elections/report-may-2022-elections-wales](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/wales-local-council-elections/report-may-2022-elections-wales)

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## Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act

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**30.** SEW enabled 16 and 17 year olds and foreign nationals to vote in Senedd elections for the first time. The provisions for extending the franchise to these groups came into effect for elections held on or after 5 April 2021.

**31.** The Commission published its report<sup>14</sup> on the May 2022 elections in Wales in September 2022. It also published an article<sup>15</sup> regarding 16-17 year olds' engagement with local government elections. This stated "Further education and engagement is recommended to support new voters to understand and participate in Welsh elections". The findings highlighted that only one in five 16-17 years olds in Wales registered to vote ahead of the local government elections in Wales, and that many young people felt there was a need for more education in this area.

**32.** The report also noted that, in relation to the 2022 Wales Local election electoral data supporting the report, that:

*"The data on applications by newly-qualified foreign nationals includes applications by those with dual or multiple nationalities, even where one or more of these nationalities would have historically granted the applicant the right to vote in UK elections prior to the extension of the franchise in Wales. It is not possible to discern from the data what proportion of applicants with dual or multiple nationalities are truly 'newly-qualified' foreign nationals as the specific nationalities of these applicants are not given."*

**33.** The Committee explored further what lessons had been learnt from the pilots and introducing new voting groups, and how the Commission intended to utilise this learning in the future.

**34.** In terms of the early voting pilots, Rhydian Thomas said that despite the low turn-out:

*"... the option was welcomed by those voters that used it. But, importantly, the technology behind the system worked effectively, and I think this allows us to consider how this type of work in Wales can be developed, moving forward, especially given what we're seeing and what we saw quite recently from Welsh Government in the White Paper in terms of the ambition that there is in electoral reform in Wales."<sup>16</sup>*

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<sup>14</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/wales-local-council-elections/report-may-2022-elections-wales](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/wales-local-council-elections/report-may-2022-elections-wales)

<sup>15</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/young-voters-wales-need-more-support-engage-elections](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/young-voters-wales-need-more-support-engage-elections)

<sup>16</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, Paragraph 117

**35.** The Committee noted that the Commission Estimate has included provision to enhance the education provision it provides, given the feedback received by young people. Rhydian Thomas set out that:

*"There are several key projects that [the Commission is] looking at in the next financial year. I've mentioned already we want to establish a youth voice network in Wales, we want to develop our teacher training materials, and we want to develop all the resources themselves, generally. But that is very much, as I mentioned, where we've got to try and move away from thinking about what young people want to hear just in the run-up to an election."*<sup>17</sup>

**36.** In terms of engaging with foreign nationals, Rhydian Thomas, told the Committee:

*"Identifying foreign nationals who are resident in Wales has been a little bit more challenging. So, we've focused on supporting local authorities across Wales, which have done some really, really good work to engage with foreign nationals at a local level, as well as specific partner groups that know where these groups are and how to reach them, and, also, the best way in which to engage with them. So, as a result of the work with local authorities, we've held various focus groups with representatives of this group, as well as developing resources."*<sup>18</sup>

**37.** The Committee welcomed the work the Commission is looking to undertake in terms of developing the technology for early voting and the intention to improve education for 16-17 year olds. The Committee noted the difficulties set out by the Commission with regards engaging with foreign nationals, and would welcome the Commission giving further consideration to how it might engage more widely with foreign nationals as well.

## **The Electoral Commission Corporate Plan**

**38.** As a result of the scrutiny of the Commission's Estimate for 2022-23, the Committee recommended that:

*"Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission should review the performance measures included in the new five-year plan to ensure they include measures which relate specifically to the objectives for its work on devolved Welsh elections."*<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, Paragraph 132

<sup>18</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, Paragraph 125

<sup>19</sup> Llywydd Committee, Report on Electoral Commission Estimate 2022-23

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**39.** The Committee questioned the Commission on how this had been taken forward and whether it felt that it had successfully implemented this recommendation. Shaun McNally explained that the Commission took on board the recommendation and that he considered the corporate plan has:

*"...the right measures that actually drive the outcomes, and will give us an indication of whether or not we are being successful in the achievement of those aims."<sup>20</sup>*

**40.** The Committee welcomed the undertaking from the Commission to work with the Committee over the forthcoming year on reporting against the performance measures in the corporate plan.

### **The Committee's view**

**41.** The Committee noted the reasons for the negligible decrease in the estimate for 2023-24. While understanding the reasons for the increased funding requests in a number of areas, and appreciating the important work the Commission will need to undertake over the next few years the Committee is concerned that this Estimate is out of step with the efficiency requirements being placed on other public bodies as a result of the UK fiscal statement made on 17 November 2022.

**42.** The Committee urges the Commission to think bigger in terms of efficiency savings it may be able to make over the forthcoming years. There are substantial pressures being placed on public bodies, and we each need to do as much as we can to address these.

**43.** The Committee is assured that the work over the next few years relating to the Welsh Government's electoral agenda and Senedd reform will require the additional resource identified by the Commission. However, we are keen to ensure that this is not then incorporated into the mainline budget of the Commission. The Committee established in correspondence after the meeting that the two posts classified under "specific resource" are permanent posts one looking at the education and learning work and one focused on electoral reform in Wales. The Committee would like the Commission to set out the intention for the post created for dealing with the electoral and Senedd reform agenda once the legislation has been completed more clearly. We would also welcome assurance from the Commission that it has discussed fully with the Welsh Government the resourcing implications of the work and has the correct financing arrangements in place with the Government.

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<sup>20</sup> RoP, 7 November 2022, Paragraph 143

**44.** The Committee welcomes the aspiration of the Commission to utilise Cardiff as a location to recruit staff for the various parts of the Commission. However, we are concerned that this plan does not come with any targets or measures to evaluate the effectiveness.

**Conclusion 1.** The Committee is satisfied with the assurances provided by the Commission that all direct costs included in the financial estimate for 2023-24 relate to the Commission's work on devolved Welsh elections and should be attributable to the Welsh Consolidated Fund.

**Conclusion 2.** In general, the Committee is satisfied the financial estimate for 2023-24 is consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Commission of its functions in relation to devolved Welsh elections and devolved Welsh referendums.

**Conclusion 3.** The Committee would not want to see an increase to this baseline over the course of the next few years and would expect that there would not be a significant increase to the baseline when the next set of Welsh elections is due to be administered. Furthermore, when the Commission's activities in relation to areas such as Senedd reform conclude, the Committee would like to see a reduction in the Estimate baseline.

**Recommendation 1.** The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission includes actual and projected outturns when submitting its Main Estimate to the Committee. These outturns should match the format of the Main Estimate to allow for effective scrutiny.

**Recommendation 2.** The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission develops a set of measurements to evaluate whether the increased investment in regulation offers value for money.

**Recommendation 3.** The Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission sets out the intention for the post created for dealing with the electoral and Senedd reform agenda, once the legislation has been completed, more clearly.

## Annex A: The Financial Estimate for 2023-24

**Table 1: Annual Estimate 2023-24 - Electoral Commission, Wales**

Senedd Costs	2023-24 (£000s)	Commentary
<b>Direct Costs (pay and non-pay)</b>		
Electoral Administration		
Wales	249	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs of supporting the development of policy and legislation in relations to Senedd constitutional reform and Welsh Government reforms to modernise elections in Wales. This will include providing expert opinion on policies and draft legislation which takes into account the views of the electoral community across Wales.</p> <p>We will also continue to develop and deliver online guidance and provide resources for candidates and agents, Returning Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and electoral administrators.</p> <p>We will use our performance standards in our engagement with ROs/EROs to support and challenge them on their delivery of electoral events and activities.</p> <p>We will work closely with the electoral community in Wales through the various stakeholder groups we manage, for example the Wales Electoral Coordination Board and Senedd Parties Panel.</p> <p>We will work closely with the Welsh Government to provide advice and expert opinion as further electoral modernisation reforms are developed.</p> <p>The Wales team will also provide resource and support for projects being led outside of Wales (e.g. on ending dual reporting) but with a direct impact on devolved elections.</p> <p>We will continue to fulfil our statutory responsibility by meeting the Welsh Language Standards set by the Welsh Language Commissioner and will lead and support the wider Commission to ensure that our commitments to the Welsh Language are upheld.</p>

<b>Senedd Costs</b>	<b>2023-24 (£000s)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
Support and Improvement	18	This represents the Committee's share of the costs associated with supporting the monitoring and support of EROs in the delivery of their statutory electoral registration functions. It also includes keeping the Performance standards for EROs and ROs under review to ensure that relevant legislative changes are reflected in the performance standard frameworks.
Guidance	45	This represents the Committee's share of the costs associated with providing advice in response to queries from Returning Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and electoral administrators throughout the year. It also includes updating our suite of core guidance and resources as needed in light of feedback and/or legislative changes
Specific resource	117	This represents the costs of two staff members who will be employed to support the delivery of the Welsh Government and Senedd's extensive programme of electoral reform - ensuring that this complex legislation is clear and workable - as well as furthering our education programme with voters, and in particular young people.
	429	
<b>Legal</b>		
Legal	80	This represents the Committee's share of the total cost of providing legal support to the Commission's advice, guidance and regulation functions. It also includes supporting the development of any policy recommendations as well as providing general and on-going legal advice on Welsh legislation and support of the Commission's functions as they relate to Wales (including registration, regulation, policy, electoral administration, governance, and compliance with Welsh Language Standards). This work includes advising on proposals for electoral reform in Wales and ensuring that the Commission fulfils its accountability obligations to the Senedd.
<b>Regulation</b>		
Registration & reporting	72	This represents the Committee's share of the costs associated with developing clear and user friendly

Senedd Costs	2023-24 (£000s)	Commentary
		<p>spending, donations and post-poll reporting guidance. As part of this work, we provide parties, candidates and agents with training, bespoke seminars and advice surgeries, to ensure understanding of the laws and high levels of compliance, including specifically with any new requirements. We provide targeted support to stakeholders tailored to their individual needs.</p>
Monitoring & enforcement	65	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs that are associated with compliance and enforcement work arising from parties and campaigners in Wales. Our monitoring work includes reviewing campaign activity, and identifying any instance where proactive intervention is required to bring campaigners into compliance, or carrying out enforcement work if required. We also work closely with the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within each Police Force area to provide advice and guidance during the election period. Our advice services are available to all regulated entities and stakeholders.</p>
Regulatory support	50	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs for the work associated with the statutory reports required from political parties in Wales, such as quarterly donations and loans reports, annual registration of party details and annual Statement of Account submission.</p>
	267	
<b>Communications, Policy &amp; Research</b>		
Campaigns & Corp Identity	41	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs of the Commission's campaigns team based on our estimate of how their time will be spent. The officers will give support to the Wales team on areas of electoral reform in Wales and will be able to help produce any voter information which is relevant to the electorate. They will also support partnership work to make sure any potential reforms are understood by groups facing additional barriers to voting.</p>

<b>Senedd Costs</b>	<b>2023-24 (£000s)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
Digital communication & learning	78	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs of the Commission's digital communications and learning team based on our estimate of how their time will be spent. This covers building on our existing political literacy work by developing new education resources to support the roll-out of the new curriculum for Wales, and providing training and support to teachers on how to use these resources. We will also continue to undertake consultancy work with our youth voice partner and young people across Wales, to get their feedback and input on our resources to ensure they are effective and fit for purpose. We will begin to develop community education projects, developing resources for use amongst under-registered and disengaged groups.</p> <p>This also covers our digital communications work. Our digital communications team develops and maintains our bilingual website and social media channels, supporting Commission-wide publication of information in English and Welsh for our diverse stakeholders, including voters, electoral administrators and campaigners.</p>
External communications	68	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs of the Commission's external communications team based on our estimate of how their time will be spent. This covers handling reactive press and public affairs enquiries; carrying out proactive media engagement for routine regulatory publications and Commission reports, and preparing for meetings with Members of the Senedd. Press office and public affairs support will be increased for activity relating to the Welsh Government electoral reform agenda.</p>
Research	47	<p>This represents the Committee's share of research activities including the annual public attitudes surveying and assessment of the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers.</p>
Policy	53	<p>This represents the Committee's share of the costs of policy analysis to support the development of new policy and legislation by the Welsh Government.</p>
	287	
<b>Total direct Costs</b>	<b>983</b>	

<b>Senedd Costs</b>	<b>2023-24</b> <b>(£000s)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>		
Resource	304	5% of back office costs, including rent, rates, ICT, finance, HR and management costs
Depreciation	127	5% of the depreciation for capital expenditure, including upgrading of the Political finance and other systems
	431	
Total indirect Costs	431	
Total contribution	1,414	