

Hybrid Senedd

3 August 2020

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 30 June in which you asked:

I am making a Freedom of Information request for all correspondence between the Senedd Commission staff relating to the reopening of the Senedd Chamber for Members during the time period of May and June 2020.

I can confirm that the Senedd Commission holds information relating to your request. However, section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") exempts information where we estimate that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit. In relation to the Senedd, this limit is specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 as £600. Applying the hourly rate of £25 prescribed by the Regulations, this is the equivalent of 24 hours of work.

Our estimate is that 141 hours and 45 minutes work would be needed. Therefore, as this estimate is above the limit prescribed for section 12 FOIA to apply, we are not in a position to disclose this information to you. My reasoning for this decision, and an explanation of the time calculation, are set out below.

To determine a fair and accurate estimate, we asked each member of the Leadership Team (which includes the Directors and Heads of Service) to search for the term 'hybrid plenary' in their Outlook, SharePoint, OneDrive and Teams accounts. The total number of items found were recorded, along with an estimate of opening and considering each item to determine if it contained the information requested. The estimated time needed for one item was then multiplied by the number of items, and the total for each service area who responded was accumulated. This totalled 141 hours and 45 minutes. As this request concentrated on communications whilst Tŷ Hywel was closed to all but essential

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staff during the COVID-19 lockdown, there were no hard copy files to search through, only electronic records.

The Senedd Commission has a duty under section 16 FOIA to provide you with advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect us to do so, in relation to your request. Given the amount of captured information, it may be difficult to narrow down the scope of your request to bring it below the appropriate limit. However, if I can be of any further assistance, for example if you are interested in communications from a particular service or individual(s), I would be grateful if you could let me know and I will endeavour to assist.

I should make it clear that the fact we have relied on the exemption under section 12 FOIA does not imply that other exemptions might not, on further consideration, turn out to be relevant, such as if the scope of your request were to be narrowed.

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

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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