

National Assembly for Wales Committees

16 March 2011

Dear

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request transferred from the Welsh Government on 16 February in which you asked:

- 1. The number of committees currently convened with the remit of Economic Policy, Economic Development and Economic Regeneration*
- 2. The number of members of these committees designated as paid advisors or consultants and the annual cost of their membership.*
- 3. The number of unpaid members of the public who are members of these committees.*

All our committees, and their remits, are published on the web:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees.htm>

The committees were designed to have cross cutting remits and any of them could look at issues that pick up on aspects of the three themes listed above, depending on the detailed areas of work they decided to focus on. In addition, Legislation committees look at which ever piece of legislation is allocated to them.

Under the Government of Wales Act 2006 membership of committees of the Assembly, or of sub-committees of such committees, consists exclusively of Assembly Members, so the answer to your questions 2 and 3 is, in each case, "none".

The only members of committees who receive any payment additional to their basic Assembly Member salaries are Chairs; their payment level is published in the Determination:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome/mem-expenses-2.htm>

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: 029 20 821813

E-bost/Email: Alison.Rutherford@wales.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

Committees of the National Assembly for Wales are permitted, via Standing Order 10.49, to appoint advisers for the purposes of providing expert advice, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Commission. To date no committee has sought to appoint an advisor to work with them on an on-going basis. In the Third Assembly, there have been a few examples of committees appointing people as paid advisors to work with them on a specific piece of work, for example a particular inquiry. This type of appointment lasts only whilst that piece of work is on-going, and they are limited in their nature, for example, to a maximum number of days.

You might be interested to know that the Welsh Government has also established advisory committees on the matters that you mention. There is more information about these on the Welsh Governments website at the following link,
<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/businessandconomy/2010/100926sectorpans/?lang=en> .

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/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm> If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me.

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.assemblywales.org/conhome/con-complaint.htm> , 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

Yours sincerely

Alison Rutherford
Access to Information Coordinator
National Assembly for Wales