



ICT for Members of the Senedd

2 November 2023

Request for Information.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request information on the number and cost of electronic devices, such as Mobile Phones, Computers, Laptops, and Tablets. Notebooks and Desktops supplied by the National Assembly for Wales (Senedd)? of Welsh Senedd members, and if any charges are maintained, include internet connections between 1 April 2021 and 1 September 2023.

Please see our response below.

Here are the number and cost of electronic devices supplied to Members of the Senedd between 1 April 2021 and 1 September 2023.

Item	Number	Cost per device (inclusive of VAT)
Windows Laptops	54	£1574.40
Apple laptop	3	£1620.74
Windows laptop all in one	3	£1620.00
Apple Tablet	5	£ 887.77
Android phone	7	£ 583.50
iPhone	27	£ 662.46
iPhone mini	5	£ 658.80

The Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd makes independent decisions on the pay and direct support for Members of the Senedd to enable those elected as Members to do their jobs effectively. The Board's decisions are set out in its

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Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Information-request@senedd.wales

Determination on Members’ Pay and Allowances (“the Determination”). The Determination provides for Members to claim reimbursement of all reasonable costs relating to the running of an office and engaging with constituents (*Chapter 6, Office and Constituent Liaison Fund*). All expenses claimed by Members under this provision are published on the **Allowance Publication System**. In order to find this information on our **allowances system**, please follow these instructions:

1. Select the financial years you wish to search.
2. To select a specific Member of the Senedd, select ‘MEMBER PICKER’ and view the list of previous and current Members and select the specific Member(s). If you do not select a Member, all Members will be displayed.
3. To select the specific expense type, select the ‘ALLOWANCE TYPE PICKER’, select allowance type and select ‘Office Cost Allowance’ and select the following:
 - i. Office Equipment – Lease
 - ii. Office Equipment - Purchase – IT
 - iii. Office Equipment - Purchase – Other

Members are supported with connections to the internet in a number of ways for their offices and homes.

Here are the broadband costs for Member constituency and regional offices between 1 April 2021 and 1 September 2023.

Item	Number	Total cost - 29 months (inclusive of VAT)
Commission ICT provided Broadband to Members constituency and regional offices	59	£76,225.92

Additionally, Members of the Senedd are able to claim for data as part of their mobile phone package, but the costs for the data allowance cannot be separated from other elements of the mobile phone package. Please follow the instructions listed below to see the expenses claimed by Members for the mobile phone packages.

Further, Members may claim for reimbursement for broadband under the **Determination** at their residential properties:

- a) their main home in accordance with *Chapter 6. Office and Constituent Liaison Fund – Section 6.6A Broadband; and*

- b) a property in the Cardiff area (as defined in the Determination) where their main home is within the boundaries of the Mid and West Wales and North Wales electoral regions in accordance with *Chapter 4. Residential Accommodation Expenditure – Section 4.4 Members whose main homes are located within the outer area.*

For part a) (reimbursement of broadband in a Member's main home) we hold no recorded information as there have been no claims.

Members may also claim broadband costs for CCTV systems in their constituency offices.

All expenses claimed by Members under this provision are published on the **Allowance Publication System**.

In order to find this information on our **allowances system**, please follow these instructions:

1. Select the financial years you wish to search.
2. To select a specific Member of the Senedd, select 'MEMBER PICKER' and view the list of previous and current Members and select the specific Member(s). If you do not select a Member, all Members will be displayed.
3. To select the specific expense type, select the 'ALLOWANCE TYPE PICKER':
 - i. For mobile phone and office phone packages which may contain data allowances, select allowance type and select 'Office Costs Allowance' and select 'Mobile Telephone' and 'Office Telephone';
 - ii. For outer area Members claiming broadband in their Cardiff residential property, select allowance type and select 'Additional Cost Allowance' and select 'Cardiff Accommodation Broadband'.
4. Select 'Search'
5. All claims are published on our allowances system **three months in arrears** and will show in the financial year to which the cost relates. If you are unable to follow these instructions, please let me know.

As this information is already partially available, your request is subject to section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means.

Yours sincerely

Buddug Saer
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