

15 January 2024

Dear

ATISN/20006, Information relating to the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill.

Information requested

Thank you for your request which we received on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

You asked for the following information:

- The date the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill was separated out from the other Senedd reform legislation.
- The number of staff deployed to work on the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill - including any staff completing work around the areas of research and preparation, and any amendment work.
- Date on which staff working on the Bill were deployed to work on it.
- The total wage bill for staff working on the Bill, from the first date they were deployed up to and including the date of the response to your request. You asked that in respect of the total wage bill, the Welsh Government should make a distinction between the period before the Bill was separated from the rest of the Senedd reform work and the period after it was separated out from other Senedd reform legislation.

Our response

Some of the information you requested is provided below. However, not all the information you have requested is held by the Welsh Government.

A decision was made by the Welsh Ministers to pursue gender quotas legislation through a separate Bill on 12 June 2023. This was announced by the First Minister as part of his statement on the Welsh Government's legislative programme on 27 June and is available [here](#).

This work is being carried out in collaboration with Plaid Cymru, as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

We do not hold information on the total number of staff deployed across the Welsh Government to work on this Bill and the total wage bill in respect of these members of staff. Welsh Government does not record time spent by officials against specific activities.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely