

18 March 2024

Dear

ATISN 20362 - Freedom of Information Request (cost breakdown of new cohort of MSs)

Information requested

Thank you for your request which you sent on 14 March.

You asked for:

1. What will the total cost be for increasing the size of the Senedd to 96 Members?
2. How exactly is this figure calculated and how is it broken down into new MS salaries, new MS office staff numbers and salaries, office space, expenses, operating costs?
3. What will the total cost be for changing the electoral system to the D'Hondt system and how is this calculated?
4. What will the total cost be for making 16 new Senedd constituencies and how is this calculated?
5. What will the total cost be for increasing the number of new Ministers and how is it broken down in terms of Ministerial salaries, office staff numbers and salaries, office space, expenses and operating costs?
6. What will the total cost be of enabling MSs to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer?
7. Will there also be an accompanying increase in Welsh Government Civil Service numbers and if yes how many and in which departments or divisions?

Response

Information relating to the cost of changes arising from the legislation, is set out within the Regulatory Impact Assessment and the Affordability Assessment in the Explanatory Memorandum that accompanied the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill when it was introduced. This can be found on the Senedd website at [pri-ld16037-em-e.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#).

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,