

30 September 2024

Dear

ATISN 21943

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 September 2024.

You asked for:

The cost of legal advice or services that were required in the development of proposals for gender quotas for Senedd elections – both required for the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Act and prior to the publication of that legislation?

A year by year breakdown of the costs and a summary of the work paid for.

In a further email dated 24 September 2024 you clarified your request for information stating that, where you referred to Act in your original request you meant Bill and with regards to costs you want to be provided with costs for any external services as well as the costs of “officer time”. We have taken to this to mean the costs of Welsh Government ‘Civil Servants’ time spent working on the Bill.

Our response

I am able to provide you with some of the information you requested.

I can provide the costs for the external legal advice that the Welsh Government received for the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill, which were £38,100.

I can confirm that no other external services were commissioned for the Bill by the Welsh Government.

Any costs incurred for Welsh Government Civil Servants time spent working on the Bill, including in our legal services department, cannot be provided. The reason for this is that government officials work across a number of different projects, and the Welsh Government does not record time spent by officials against specific activities. Therefore, I am unable to provide any further in this regard because we do not hold this information.

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