

24 November 2025

Dear

ATISN 26308

Thank you for your request which I received on 27 October. You asked for the following information, for the period 1 January 2025 to the present:

1. The number of individuals (ministers, special advisers, or civil servants) whose accommodation costs exceeded £200 per night for any hotel stay paid for by the Welsh Government.
2. The total number of hotel nights costing over £200 per night during this period.
3. The total expenditure incurred on these hotel stays, and the highest nightly rate paid.
4. If held, a brief breakdown by purpose of travel (e.g. conferences, official visits, international engagements) and whether the bookings were made within Wales, elsewhere in the UK, or overseas.

If retrieving full detail would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise a summary showing:

- The total number of stays exceeding £200 per night; and
- The highest nightly rate and total spend.

Our response

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

Accommodation for business travel can be booked via a number of processes depending on the nature of the travel and most cost-effective options. This could be via our contracted travel provider, via Welsh Procurement Card, via an individual booking direct and reclaiming through our travel and subsistence process or via our procurement arrangements for a large group or event booking.

For context, Welsh Government subsistence limits for accommodation are presently £95 per night in the UK excluding London and £200 per night in London – this is on a

Bed and Breakfast basis. Where circumstances dictate that accommodation cannot be obtained within these limits, departures are required to be agreed with line managers to document how value for money was ensured. Worldwide subsistence rates vary by location and use the HMRC [Expenses rates for employees travelling outside the UK - GOV.UK](#) .

All transactions arising are reported within our finance system, however to obtain the details of cost per night in most cases it is necessary to go beyond the level of data held in the finance system, back to underlying invoices or even to individuals, as transactions posted to the Finance system may be for more than one person at a time, or more than one night.

To source the information you have requested, even the summary data, will require review of three codes within the finance system; Travel and Subsistence, Accommodation and Travel and Travel only.

From 1 January 2025 to 30 October 2025, this amounts to over 47,500 transactions. At an estimate of taking 5 mins to review each transaction to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it, this would total approximately 165 days. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required, or those transactions booked via our travel provider, or reclaimed via Travel and Subsistence. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible, depending on the scope of the transactions it is possible this may also exceed the limit noted above.

The total costs for travel and accommodation for Ministers and supporting officials are published as part of the annual Code information publication here: [Ministerial Code information publication: 6th Senedd](#) . This is published annually in arrears by financial year. The information for the period 1 January 2025 – 31 March 2025 is covered by the 2024-25 publication. The 2025-26 publication is not yet available.

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

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

Yours sincerely