

7 August 2026

Dear

**ATISN 27210**

Thank you for your requests which I received on 12 July. You asked for the information as listed at Annex 1.

**Our response**

Our responses to your requests can be found in Annex 1.

**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 e-mail: [Freedom.of.information@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.of.information@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](http://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

## Annex 1

### Request Part 1

#### **You requested:**

Innovating Democracy Advisory Group: cost, membership and outputs

Subject: Innovating Democracy Advisory Group — expenditure, membership and outputs Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group, covering the period from its establishment to the date of this request:

1. An itemised breakdown of the total expenditure on the Group (most recently stated as £26,698.18), broken down by category — including member remuneration, travel and subsistence, secretariat and administration, venue and catering, external facilitation, and any other category of spend.
2. The individual daily or per-meeting remuneration rate paid to members (or the range of rates), and the total number of members.
3. The date and format (in person or virtual) of each meeting the Group has held to date.
4. The Group's terms of reference and current membership list.
5. Any final (non-draft) reports, recommendations, or outputs produced by the Group to date.
6. The process by which members were appointed, including whether the roles were publicly advertised, and any register of members' interests held.

#### **Response**

1. The total expenditure of the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group (IDAG) is included below:

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| IDAG members' fees           | £17,534.39        |
| IDAG members' T&S claims     | £5,454.28         |
| IDAG in-person meeting costs | £3,982.80         |
| IDAG report production       | £3,270.47         |
| IDAG engagement event        | £50.00            |
| Research advised by IDAG     | £12,948.80        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>£43,240.74</b> |

2. The members of the IDAG could claim remuneration initially set at £150 per day for the Chair, and £100 per day for the other members. From 1 January 2026, these rates increased to £155 per day for the Chair and £104 per day for the other

members. Twelve members were appointed to the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group.

3. The date and format of IDAG meetings to date are:

- 01 May 2025 - IDAG members in person meeting
- 19 June 2025 - IDAG members online meeting
- 03 July 2025 - IDAG members in person meeting
- 04 September 2025 - IDAG members in person meeting
- 23 October 2025 - IDAG members online meeting
- 20 November 2025 - IDAG members in person meeting
- 18 December 2025 - IDAG members online meeting
- 22 January 2026 - IDAG members in person meeting
- 10 February 2026 - IDAG members online meeting
- 18 February 2026 - IDAG members online meeting
- 22 April 2026 - IDAG members online meeting

4. The IDAG's Terms of Reference are published on GOV.WALES:

- [Terms of Reference: Innovating Democracy Advisory Group](#)

The current membership of the IDAG is also published on GOV.WALES:

- [Membership: Innovating Democracy Advisory Group](#)

5. The final outputs produced by, or commissioned at the request of, the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group have been published on GOV.WALES:

- [Innovating Democracy Advisory Group: work programme](#)
- [Towards a thriving Welsh democracy: progress report](#)
- [Evidence Review: Mainstreaming participatory and deliberative democracy in Wales](#)
- [Evidence Review: Engaging citizens in drafting a statement of constitutional and governance principles for Wales](#)

6. The Chair of the group was appointed directly by the then Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs.

All other members of the group were appointed by the then Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs via open competition. A copy of the IDAG members' registered interests is attached at Annex 2.

## **Request Part 2**

### **You requested:**

Total expenditure on the electoral reform programme and external contracts

Subject: Expenditure and external contracts — Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following, for the period 1 January 2026 to the date of this request:

1. The total Welsh Government expenditure on the Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board and its work, including secretariat, research, consultancy and any external contracts.
2. A list of any external contracts, consultancy agreements, or research commissions relating to Senedd or local government electoral reform, stating for each: the recipient organisation or individual, the contract value, and the title or subject of the work.
3. The contract value and commissioning date of the YouGov research titled “Senedd Cymru’s Audience Insight” (reference SERDB(20)2026), together with the total sum paid to date.

### **Response**

1. The Welsh Government does not hold the information requested on the expenditure attributable to the Electoral Reform Delivery Board and its work, research, consultancy and any external contracts.

Similarly, we do not hold a record for the expenditure for the secretariat that is attributed specifically to the Electoral Reform Delivery Board and its work.

Any relevant expenditure in relation to Welsh Government staff costs form part of wider programme, departmental, or corporate activities and are not recorded against individual activities in a manner that would allow us to identify expenditure solely associated with the Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board’s secretariat and its work.

Information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – information accessible to the applicant by other means – information can be found here [FOI release 27168: Expenditure | GOV.WALES](#)

Under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are required to provide information that they hold in recorded form. As the Welsh Government does not hold the requested information in the level of detail sought, we are unable to provide it.

2. Following searches of our records, we have identified the following for information within the scope of your request:

- Contract title: Democratic impact and change in 2026 - Citizen perspectives and understanding - Qualitative  
Recipient Organisation: Thinks Insight and Strategy  
Value: £110,036.00  
Contract Start Date: 10/11/2025
- Contract title: Democratic impact and change in 2026 – Quantitative  
Recipient Organisation: Beaufort Research Ltd  
Value: £40,695.00  
Contract Start Date: 15/12/2025

3. The Welsh Government does not hold any information that would fall within the scope of this request.

You may wish to contact the Senedd Commission, who commissioned the research titled “Senedd Cymru’s Audience Insight” and may hold information relevant to your request. They can be contacted at [Information-request@senedd.wales](mailto:Information-request@senedd.wales).

### **Request Part 3**

#### **You requested:**

For the period May 7 2026 to the date of this request (12 July 2026):

1. The dates of all meetings of the Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board, and for each meeting, the agenda and a list (by title and reference number) of the papers considered.
2. A complete list of all papers produced for the Board (by title and reference number, e.g. SERDB(19)2026), indicating for each whether it has been published.
3. A copy of the Board’s Risk Register (reference SERDB(19)2026) as considered at its meeting on 20 May 2026.

#### **Response:**

1-2. The information you have requested is already available in the public domain, having been disclosed to you previously. You can access the information at: [FOI release 27071: Single transferable voting system | GOV.WALES.](#)

3. A copy of the document requested is attached at Annex 3.

## **Request Part 4**

### **You requested:**

Official and special adviser engagement on electoral and constitutional reform Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following for the period 1 January 2026 to the date of this request. For the avoidance of doubt, this request specifically excludes any ministerial meetings already published in the Welsh Government's quarterly ministerial meeting returns; I am seeking only information not proactively published in those returns.

1. A list of any meetings held between officials of the Constitution and Legislative Programme Directorate or the Senedd Reform Division, or the Cabinet Minister for Government Effectiveness and the Constitution's special adviser(s), and the Electoral Reform Society, Unlock Democracy, or any other external organisation, regarding Senedd or local government electoral reform. For each, please provide the date, the organisations represented, and the agenda item title.
2. A list of any written submissions, position papers, or briefing documents received by the Welsh Government from external organisations in connection with the electoral or constitutional reform programme, identified by author organisation and title/date (I am requesting the list, not the content).
3. Details of any funding, grant, or commission awarded to any external organisation in connection with the electoral or constitutional reform programme, including recipient, value, and title of the work.

### **Response**

1. Following a review of our records we have identified the information listed below within the scope of your request:

|            |                                               |          |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| 07/01/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 21/01/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 04/02/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 04/03/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |

|            |                                               |          |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| 18/03/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 21/04/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 18/06/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |
| 25/06/2026 | Thinks Insight & Strategy<br>Welsh Government | Catch-up |

2. A review of our records has identified the following information within the scope of your request.

- Exploring the devolution of social security administration, published by the Welsh Government in March 2026.
- Beaufort Research Ltd - WALES OMNIBUS SURVEY Senedd Elections: Wave 1 data tables - January 2026.  
*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*
- Thinks Insight & Strategy - Democratic Impact and Change 2026: Rapid Evidence Assessment - January 2026.  
*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*
- The Crown Estate - Submission to the Expert Group on the Future of the Crown Estate in Wales - February 2026
- Beaufort Research Ltd - WALES OMNIBUS SURVEY Senedd Elections: Wave 2 data tables - March 2026.  
*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*
- The Group on the Future of the Crown Estate in Wales - The Future of the Crown Estate in Wales INTERIM REPORT - March 2026
- Thinks Insight & Strategy - Democratic Impact and Change 2026: Stage 2 Interim Report - March 2026.  
*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*
- Beaufort Research Ltd - WALES OMNIBUS SURVEY Senedd Elections: Summary charts - June 2026.  
*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*
- Beaufort Research Ltd - WALES OMNIBUS SURVEY Senedd Elections: Wave 3 data tables - June 2026.

*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*

- Thinks Insight & Strategy - Democratic Impact and Change 2026: Stage 3 Interim Report - June 2026.

*Note: The findings of the research will be published on GOV.WALES once the research programme has concluded.*

3. The original contract notice and award notice related to research commissioned for the *Exploring the devolution of social security administration* was published by the Welsh Government on Sell2Wales and can be found at: [View notice - Sell2Wales](#).

During the period 1 Jan 26 – 13 Jul 26, the Welsh Government also made one payment to Government Actuary's Division of £15,448.10 for information about the potential transfer of accrued pensions in relation to devolved tribunals. This information was required for the preparation of supporting documentation for a tribunals Bill.

## **Request Part 5**

### **You requested:**

The following relating to the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group:

1. The full membership of the Group, including each member's stated affiliation or area of expertise as recorded by the Welsh Government.
2. The process by which members were appointed, including whether any roles were publicly advertised.
3. The Group's terms of reference and remit.
4. Any register of interests held for members of the Group.

## **Response**

1. The full membership of the Group, including each member's stated affiliation or area of expertise as recorded by the Welsh Government, was published on GOV.WALES and can be found at:

- [Written Statement: Innovating Democracy Advisory Group \(30 April 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#).

2. Please refer to our response to question question 6 of Part 1.

3. The Innovating Democracy Advisory Group's Terms of Reference and remit are published on GOV.WALES and can be found at:

- Terms of Reference: Innovating Democracy Advisory Group

4. Please refer to our response to question 6 of Part 1.