



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

8 April 2019

Dear ,

Reference: ATISN: 13042 – Cost of politicians

Thank you for your request which I received on 13 March. You asked for:

- total cost to the public of councillors' wages and the percentage of government funding and council tax used to pay councillors and county councillors in Wales
- What has happened to the promise to cut the number of councils in Wales

Total cost to the public of councillors' wages and the percentage of government funding and council tax used to pay councillors and county councillors in Wales

The Welsh Government does not hold this information but each local authority publishes an annual schedule of member remuneration which will be available via their websites.

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has very recently published its latest annual report which provides some information on this topic, so I have provided a link below for your information:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/irp-annual-report-2019-2020_0.pdf

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Sarn Mynach
Cyffordd Llandudno
Conwy
LL31 9RZ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre
0300 0604400

What has happened to the promise to cut the number of councils in Wales?

A number of public consultations relating to the structure and resilience of local government in Wales have been undertaken over the past few years. The then Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services made an Oral Statement on this issue in July 2018, link below:

<https://gov.wales/oral-statement-local-government-reform-next-steps>

The Cabinet Secretary also provided an update in December, 2018, below:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-working-group-local-government-update>

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