

# Security Procedures

18 November 2014

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



## Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received via Sandy Mewies AM on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in which you asked:

1. *I would definitely be very grateful if you could inform me of all papers, research, reports and evidence presented in order to decide to ask people to remove their belts on entering the Senedd. I am particularly interested in your claim that "Unfortunately, experience has shown that it is very easy to hide threatening weapons in a belt". I would be grateful if you could also provide the following information:*
  - a. *The person who took the decision*
  - b. *The date on which the decision was taken*
2. *A while ago, people had to remove their shoes before entering the Senedd, but that is not the case now. I would like to have the following information:*
  - a. *All the information (papers, research, reports and evidence) that was the basis for taking that decision in the first place*
  - b. *All the information (as above) that led to the u-turn on that decision*
  - c. *In both cases: the person who took the decision and the date of the decision.*
3. *In addition, I would like the following information:*

*All occurrences of violence, harm, threats or any crime committed against any staff member or Assembly Member, caused by a weapon brought into the Senedd or Tŷ Hywel hidden in a belt*

  - a. *Prior to the ban*
  - b. *After the ban*
4. *All occurrences of violence, harm, threats or any crime committed against any staff member or Assembly Member from any other source*
  - a. *Prior to the ban*
  - b. *After the ban*

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

Security access arrangements, security access systems and procedures have been designed to provide free access to non-restricted areas, whilst at the same time ensuring the safety of the building and everyone within it.

We continually receive advice and guidance from the Police and other security services and amend our procedures accordingly. The current threat level from international terrorism for the UK is assessed as Severe which means an attack is highly likely.

In answer to questions 1 and 2, we do not hold the information that you have requested.

In answer to question 3 and 4, there have been no occurrences of violence, harm, threats or crime committed.

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The code is published on our website at [http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about\\_us-commission\\_assembly\\_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm)

If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Buddug Saer**  
**Freedom of Information and Project Support Officer**  
**National Assembly for Wales**

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you believe that I have not applied the Code correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, you may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive and Clerk at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay. Details of the Assembly's complaints principles are set out in the Code of Practice on Complaints available on the Internet at <http://www.assemblywales.org/conhome/con-complaint.htm>. Please advise me if you wish to receive a printed copy.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF