

Director of Legal Services

14 August 2018

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 18 July in which you asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information about the National Assembly for Wales' legal team and salaries paid to senior legal staff:

- 1. The yearly salary paid in pounds (£) to the National Assembly for Wales' director of legal services Elisabeth Jones.*
- 2. Any expenses or gifts reported by the National Assembly for Wales' director of legal services Elisabeth Jones up to most recent available date*
- 3. The number of staff in the National Assembly for Wales' legal team.*
- 4. A breakdown of those roles (ie the number of lawyers and other staff) in the National Assembly for Wales' legal team*

Our response to your requests are detailed below.

1. The salary paid to Elisabeth Jones is published in our [Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18](#) under the heading *Commission senior staff* (page 110 onwards). Previous annual reports can also be found on our [website](#). Please note that the role of Elisabeth Jones is Chief Legal Adviser. The Assembly Commission does not employ a Director of Legal Services.

As this information is already published, this part of your request is subject to section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means i.e. already published on our website.

2. Again, any expenses claimed is information published in our annual report on page 116. Again, as some of the information requested is already published, your request is subject to section 21 of the Freedom of

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Information Act 2000 (FOIA) which exempts information that is already reasonably accessible by other means i.e. already published on our website.

The gifts received by Elisabeth Jones are as follows:

- Bottle of prosecco and sandwich lunch – 15.09.2016
- Bottle of Penderyn Whisky – 16.09.2016.

3. A total of 14 people work in Legal Services.

4. The breakdown of those roles is as follows:

- 12 solicitors (Legal Advisers);
- 1 trainee solicitor; and
- 1 office manager.

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

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

**Freedom of Information Manager
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.assembly.wales/en/help/contact-the-assembly/con-complaint/Pages/con-complaint-procedure.aspx>. 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