

Muslim Facilities

23 September 2016

Request for Information.



Thank you for your request received 30 August in which you asked:

- 1. Are imams invited to the Assembly offices for Friday prayers?*
- 2. What arrangements, if any are made for non-Muslims to take time to pray?*
- 3. Do non-Muslims have access to a prayer room?*
- 4. Is the wearing of religious symbols allowed or discouraged?*

In response to your questions:

1. Are imams invited to the Assembly offices for Friday prayers?

We have no record of any imam being invited to the Assembly offices for Friday prayers.

2. What arrangements, if any are made for non-Muslims to take time to pray?

We have one quiet room location in the Senedd for pass holders and members of the public. We are consulting with our BME workplace equality network to design and re-fit an additional quiet room space in our Tŷ Hywel building for use by pass holders and visitors.

For Assembly Commission employees who wish to pray, this is discussed and arranged between the member of staff and their line manager.

3. Do non-Muslims have access to a prayer room?

Yes, the room is available to pass holders and members of the public of all faiths and none. We have autism-friendly resources located there too to enable it to be used as a quiet space.

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4. Is the wearing of religious symbols allowed or discouraged??

The wearing of religious symbols by employees is allowed. For those employees who wear uniform, jewellery (including religious symbols) should be minimal with due regard for the Corporate uniform. Employees may modify their uniforms if they so wish on the grounds of religious requirement in consultation with their line management.

For visitors to the Assembly, sharp objects and blades (whether relating to religious, cultural or ceremonial purposes) are permitted on the Assembly estate if the person is on a pre-arranged visit/function and has obtained prior approval from Security. Knives identified as a kirpan (e.g. the ceremonial knife or dagger of the Sikh religion), during unscheduled visits, can be deposited with Security who will provide a substitute miniature kirpan for the visitor to use for the duration of their visit

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