



## Social Media Claims

19 April 2023

### Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 13 March in which you asked:

*I would like to know how much money is spent and claimed for by the Leader of the Conservative Party in Wales Andrew RT. Davies on social media- and in particular how many persons are employed by him for social accounts including twitter.*

Please find our response to your request below. The information provided relates to Andrew RT Davies claims as the Leader of the Conservative Party in Wales, not in relation to any claims made by him in his role as a Member of the Senedd. Therefore any claims detailed below, are made on behalf of the Conservative group in the Senedd but are in the Leader's name.

Members' expenditure in relation to social media is published under several allowance types on the **Allowance Publication System**. To calculate how much is claimed by Andrew RT Davies, Leader of the Welsh Conservative party on social media, please view the information published on the <https://allowances.senedd.wales/> by following these instructions:

1. Select the financial years you wish to search.
2. To select a specific Member of the Senedd, select 'MEMBER PICKER' and select 'Conservative group leader'.
3. To select the specific expense type, select the 'ALLOWANCE TYPE PICKER', select allowance type and select 'Office Costs Allowance' and select the following:
  - Software programme

Senedd Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 200 6544

E-bost/Email: [Ceisiadau-gwybodaeth@senedd.cymru](mailto:Ceisiadau-gwybodaeth@senedd.cymru)  
[Information-request@senedd.wales](mailto:Information-request@senedd.wales)

- Surgery Advertising
  - Subscriptions
  - Photography
4. Select 'Search'
  5. All claims are published on our allowances system **three months in arrears** and will show in the financial year to which the cost relates. If you are unable to follow these instructions, please let me know.

The publication system allows for all published data to be downloaded into an excel spreadsheet.

For information on the rules that apply to this expense, please see *chapter 8 - support for political parties* of the **Determination on Members' Pay and Allowances: 2022-23 (senedd.wales)**

As this information is already available, 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.

In addition to the published information available by accessing the expenses system, we have calculated that a total of £1,040.15 of overtime (2022-23) was claimed by group staff, whose job titles directly relate to social media or where the claim detailed the reason for the overtime being related to social media. This information is not published on the expenses system.

There are five group office staff (four part time and one full time), employed by the Leader of the Party where their roles could include social media duties based on their job titles.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager  
Welsh Parliament**

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the **Code of Practice on Public Access to Information**. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Parliament's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at:

**Information-request@senedd.wales** or in writing to

Welsh Parliament  
Governance and Assurance  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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