



## Expansion of the Senedd

12 April 2022

### Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 25 March in which you asked:

*In relation to increasing the size of the Senedd:*

- 1. Can you please provide by how many?*
- 2. Who is going to pay for the extra members?*
- 3. The reason for it?*
- 4. Why using proportional representation (PR) considering wherever it has been used has failed the people?*

- 1. Can you please provide by how many?*

We hold no recorded information in relation to your request.

No decisions have been taken on whether the Senedd should increase in size and by how many.

The Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform (in its report, "[A Parliament That Works For Wales](#)", published in 2017) previously recommended increasing the size of the Senedd to between 80 and 90 Members. The Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform (in its report, "[Senedd Reform: The Next Steps](#)", published in 2020), agreed with the Expert Panel's recommendation.

- 2. Who is going to pay for the extra members?*

Members of the Senedd are paid from the budget of the Senedd Commission, with the remuneration and allowances for Members set by the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd as part of its [Determination](#). The Senedd Commission's annual draft

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budget is subject to scrutiny by the **Finance Committee** and a vote on whether to approve it by the whole Senedd.

3. *The reason for it?*

The Expert Panel's **report** and the Committee on **Senedd Electoral Reform** set out their reasons for recommending that the size of the Senedd is increased.

4. *Why using proportional representation (PR) considering wherever it has been used has failed the people?*

We hold no recorded information in relation to your request.

The [Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform](#) was established on 6 October 2021:

- to consider the conclusions previously reached by the Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform in the Fifth Senedd as set out in its report [Senedd reform: the next step](#) before the Senedd on 10 September 2020;
- by 31 May 2022, to make recommendations for policy instructions for a Welsh Government Bill on Senedd Reform.

The Committee is considering all aspects of Senedd reform, including the size of the Senedd, the voting system, and measures to encourage diversity within the Senedd's membership. The Committee's remit states that it must publish its report by 31 May 2022 and present recommendations for the Government to consider. The Government may then introduce a Bill proposing reforms before the Senedd, which will be subject to the Senedd's legislative process. The Wales Act 2017 requires a 'super-majority' for any Bills dealing with reforms to the Senedd. i.e. any proposed law would not be passed unless two-thirds of the total number of Members (40 out of 60) vote in favour of it at the final stage of the legislative process.

As referenced above, the Expert Panel's report evaluated various electoral systems and set out their recommendations for options for future electoral systems and the reasons why. The Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform in the Fifth Senedd also examined the principles and electoral systems recommended by the Expert Panel and reached conclusions on the system by which Members of the Senedd should be elected.

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.

Yours sincerely

**Buddug Saer**  
**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

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