



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Email request

Our ref: ATISN 13965

Date: 10 June 2020

Dear ,

ATISN 13965

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 May 2020. You asked for the following information:

how much it has cost the Welsh Government to debate and change the name of the National Assembly to Senedd and the Assembly Members to Members of the Senedd?

The Senedd and Elections Bill (now the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020) was introduced by the Senedd Commission (previously known as the Assembly Commission) rather than the Welsh Government. The Senedd Commission has responsibility for the provision of property, staff and services to support the Members of the Senedd. As a result, most of the costs resulting from the name change do not fall to the Welsh Government.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill, which is available via the link below, set out (in the Regulatory Impact Assessment) the estimated costs for both the Senedd Commission and external organisations (which included the Welsh Government) associated with the various components of the Bill including, but not exclusively, those associated with the name change.

<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/pri-ld12142-em-r/pri-ld12142-em-r-e.pdf>

In terms of the name change element of the legislation, the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) contained details of costs that would fall to the Welsh Government. These were for changes to road signage on roads where the Welsh Government is the highways authority. The cost in the RIA (£42,000) was included as an estimated maximum sum. Due to the current environment, this work has not yet been undertaken and therefore actual costs are not available.

As set out in the RIA, staff costs for administrative amendments required (for example to internal guidance) to reflect the name change are not included as this was programmed into officials' and teams' work plans alongside their other duties, without having to deprioritise work. Therefore, as stated in the RIA, the cost for the Welsh Government to undertake such work is unknown. Costs incurred by the Welsh Government for the development and passage of the legislation through the Senedd were also met from existing budgets as part of officials' roles in supporting Ministers.

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

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or e-mail: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely