

Our ref: ATISN 27139

Date: 30 July 2026

Dear ,

ATISN 27139

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 June. You asked for:

1. *The total wage bill/cost of the current Welsh Government Cabinet's staff – including the salaries, travel expenses and operational costs of all Special Advisors and private office civil servants.*

Please include the estimated yearly cost.

2. *The total wage bill/cost of the previous Welsh Government Cabinet's staff – including the salaries, travel expenses and operational costs of all Special Advisors and private office civil servants.*

To also include the cost per year for the previous five years (the yearly cost over the previous administration's term in office).

Our response

In relation to question 1, we do not hold a record of the estimated yearly cost of the current Welsh Government Cabinet's staff – including the salaries, travel expenses and operational costs of all Special Advisors and private office civil servants.

In relation to question 2, the costs are shown in the table below.

Costs are shown for each financial year for the elements as described in your request. These represent the total costs – for example, including employer NI and pension costs – incurred. They do not reflect vacant posts held across these areas, which have varied considerably in number and duration across the 6-year total period requested.

As such, these costs should not be interpreted as offering a direct comparison between years or administrations.

The annual costs shown may be impacted by in year changes to the Welsh Government Cabinet structure, which may also include severance payments to special advisers, who are appointed by the First Minister, in line with their contractual arrangements on taking up appointment.

Financial Year	Costs (£'000)
2025/26	4,400
2024/25	4,300

2023/24	5,400
2022/23	4,300
2021/22	4,400

Next steps

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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

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

Yours sincerely