

12 October 2026

Dear

ATISN 27511

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 September. You asked for the following information:

In relation to the summit held in Cardiff on 14 September 2026 involving Rhun ap Iorwerth, John Swinney, Michelle O'Neill and representatives of Plaid Cymru, the Scottish National Party and Sinn Féin.

1. *The total amount spent by the Welsh Government in connection with the summit.*
2. *A breakdown of expenditure, including:*
 - *Venue hire;*
 - *Security;*
 - *Travel and transport;*
 - *Accommodation;*
 - *Hospitality and refreshments;*
 - *Staffing;*
 - *Communications, media and publicity;*
 - *Equipment and administrative support;*
 - *Any other associated expenditure.*
3. *Copies of invoices, purchase orders, expense claims and payment records relating to the event.*
4. *The number of Welsh Government civil servants or other publicly funded personnel involved in organising, supporting or publicising the summit, together with their departments and the total recorded staff time involved.*
5. *Details of any Welsh Government premises, vehicles, equipment, communications systems or other facilities used in connection with the summit.*
6. *Copies of recorded correspondence, briefing notes or decisions concerning whether Rhun ap Iorwerth attended the summit:*
 - *In his capacity as First Minister;*
 - *As leader of Plaid Cymru; or In both capacities.*
7. *Copies of any assessment or advice concerning whether the use of Welsh Government resources for the event complied with the Ministerial Code, Civil Service rules and restrictions on party-political activity.*
8. *Details of any contribution, repayment or reimbursement made or expected from Plaid Cymru, the SNP, Sinn Féin or any other organisation.*
9. *Details of any Welsh Government budget allocated to preparing, examining or promoting Welsh independence or a future independence referendum during the 2026–27 financial year.*

Our response

There was no itemised expenditure incurred by the Welsh Government in connection to the meeting held in Cardiff on 14 September 2026.

No civil servants were involved in organising, facilitating, or attending the meeting, or drafting the associated Memorandum of Understanding. The Welsh Government therefore holds no recorded information relating to civil service involvement of the type requested.

Special adviser time spent was in line with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, which states that they may “help ministers on matters where the work of government and the work of the government party overlap and where it would be inappropriate for permanent civil servants to become involved”. Special advisers are not obliged to record time spent on political activities and therefore the Welsh Government does not hold any recorded information requested.

The Welsh Government holds no invoices, receipts, correspondence or other recorded information relating to the reimbursement or recharging of costs to external political parties in connection with this meeting.

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,