

Questions about the Commission's functions

01. The main role of the Commission, set out in the Government of Wales Act 2006, is to provide the Senedd with the property, staff and services required to enable the Senedd to function.
02. The Act also provides for other functions – for example payment of Members' salaries, allowances and pensions, and promotion of public awareness of the electoral system and system of devolved government – to be exercised by the Commission.

Commission accountability

03. The Commission is accountable to the Senedd for the exercise of its functions. It is for the Senedd and its committees to satisfy itself that the Commission is acting prudently and responsibly. The discretion as to how to discharge the duty of providing the Senedd with the necessary property, staff and services is vested in the Commission.

Questions about Commission functions

04. Members may from time to time have questions about particular services or facilities provided by the Commission.
05. In order to receive answers to these queries Members may direct them through any Commissioner, or via the Commission secretariat, at any time. We will seek answers and provide them asap.

Oral Commission questions in Plenary

06. Senedd Members may table oral questions to the Commission about any matter relating to the Commission's responsibilities. Questions must be tabled at least five working days before they are to be answered – time is allocated once in every four business weeks.

Written Commission questions

07. Members may table questions for written answer by the Commission, at any time, on any matter relating to the Commission's responsibilities.

Urgent Commission questions and Urgent Commission debates

08. Standing Orders provide for urgent questions to be asked of the Commission. A question will be deemed urgent if the DPO is satisfied that the question is of urgent public importance.

Scrutiny of the Commission

09. The Commission is required to produce an annual budget strategy describing its resource needs and investment plans for the following year. This is considered by the Finance Committee and then debated in Plenary before being formally incorporated into the annual budget motion tabled under Section 125 of the Act.
10. The Commission is a public body audited by the Auditor General for Wales and the Chief Executive and Clerk, as its Principal Accounting Officer, may therefore be asked to give evidence on any matter relating to the Commission's accounts or any report relating to the Commission laid by the Auditor General for Wales.

Determining Members' salaries and allowances



11. From 2011, Members' salaries and other costs have been determined by the Remuneration Board, established under the Senedd (Remuneration) Measure 2010.
12. The Board functions independently of the Senedd and the Commission. The decisions of the Board are final and not subject to ratification or approval by the Senedd Commission or Senedd.
13. Under the Measure, the Commission is responsible for laying the Board's Determinations before the Senedd as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Pensions

14. The Remuneration Board has an overarching responsibility for the Members' Pension Scheme rules, appoints the independent chair for the Pensions Board and formally appoints the Commission and Member representatives to the Pensions Board.

