

# Confiscated Items

24 October 2011

Dear

## **Request for Information.**

Thank you for your request received on 29 September in which you asked,

*Could you please supply me with a list of items confiscated by staff from visitors to National Assembly buildings from April 2009 to present?*

In response to your request, I would firstly like to point out that security staff at the National Assembly for Wales do not confiscate items but take temporary care of items that are surrendered at the point of entry to comply with our condition of entry, which requests that all metal objects and any knives or scissors are placed in the scanning tray. These items are voluntarily surrendered to enable the visitor to proceed into the building. However, each visitor has the choice of not surrendering their possessions and not entering the Estate.

On the majority of occasions, the surrendered items are returned when the visitor leaves the premises but, in the case of any items that may be considered as offensive weapons or other prohibited weapons, we alert South Wales Police, who have a permanent base at the National Assembly.

South Wales Police then take a view on whether or not they consider the item to be unlawful and if they suspect any article to be illegally held, they then have the right and authority to confiscate it.

We do not keep records of items that are temporarily surrendered at the point of entry nor do we keep records of items that are confiscated after intervention by the South Wales Police. I understand that the South Wales Police have provided a response on this matter, following a Freedom of Information request made to them.

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The code is published on our website at <http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm> If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me.

If you believe that I have not applied the Code correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, you may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive and Clerk at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay. Details of the Assembly's complaints principles are set out in the Code of Practice on Complaints available on the Internet at <http://www.assemblywales.org/conhome/con-complaint.htm> , please advise me if you wish to receive a printed copy.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

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