

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Andrew RT Davies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

07 March 2018

Dear Mr Davies,

Written Assembly Question: WAQ75688

You wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport with the following Written Assembly Question:

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide a breakdown of staffing costs in each of the Welsh Government's overseas offices for the years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?

As this question relates to staffing in the Welsh Government, the Cabinet Secretary has asked me to respond to you directly.

The running costs for each of the offices for the last three years can be found in the State of the Estate report published here <http://gov.wales/about/civilservice/how-we-work/facts-figures/our-buildings/state-of-the-estate-report-2016-17/?lang=en>. Running costs here are the costs associated with office buildings – rents and cleaning for example.

As there is a small number of staff in each of the offices, with several offices with only one member of staff, disclosure of the 'staffing costs' for each office is likely to allow the actual salaries of individuals to be identified. Data protection legislation requires us to protect personal information being held in relation to individual members of staff, and others, and to ensure that it is only used for the purposes for which it was collected. We believe that releasing staffing costs in this instance would be in breach of the Data Protection Act.



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding

However, as Principal Accounting Officer, I am not complacent about the importance of accountability and the transparency of spending on the running of the organisation. With an expanding overseas presence on the horizon, colleagues are looking into appropriate ways to proactively publish the operational costs of our overseas offices.

Yours,

Shan Morgan

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Ysgrifennydd Parhaol/ Permanent Secretary
Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government



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