

Payments of Members pay and Allowances

14 April 2011

Dear

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 10 March in which you asked,

I look for information about way of payments relating travel costs and other MPs' allowances in the EU Member States Parliament. At your web-site I found document named Consolidated Determination on Members pay and Allowances. In Section 2, paragraph 2.3.1 states that salaries are paid directly to the Member's account by electronic transfer. I want to know if this practice is used also for other payments such as allowances. Are there any payments in cash to the Members? Do you know, is such system of payments in place also in other Parliaments in GB?

The National Assembly for Wales is made up of 60 Members, who are elected by the people of Wales to represent them and their communities, make Laws for Wales and to hold the Welsh Government to account. They are referred to as Assembly Members, rather than MP's as you refer to in your request.

Salaries are paid directly into Assembly Members' bank accounts, as are some other types of reimbursement. The other occasions when there will be a direct payment into an Assembly Member's bank account are:

- When the Assembly Member is claiming for reimbursement of petrol costs when they are using their own car for Assembly related travel.
- When they have incurred expenses that are eligible to be reimbursed by the Assembly, but the Assembly Member has paid for them initially themselves. In this case, claims must always be accompanied by appropriate receipts.

There are no payments in cash made to Assembly Members. I cannot comment on practices in other legislatures. You may wish to approach them directly for this information, please see the following links for their contact

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

information. For the Scottish Parliament, <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/cnPages/contactUs.htm>, The Northern Ireland Assembly, <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/io/contactus.html> and the UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/contact-us/>.

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

Alison Rutherford
Access to Information Coordinator
National Assembly for Wales