

# The Referendum - Thursday, March 3

27 April 2011

Dear

## Request for Information.

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

*I would like to know how many staff days of work at your body/authority/institution were lost to last Thursday's Welsh law-making powers referendum. To clarify, by this I mean I would like to know how many staff were diverted from their usual daily job on Thursday, March 3, and Friday, March 4, to staff the referendum in some way (counting votes, for example). I would like to know the total number and also a breakdown of those numbers in terms of what those people did on the days.*

No National Assembly for Wales staff were diverted from their usual jobs to count votes or staff last month's Referendum.

Although the national counting centre was located on the Assembly's premises (the Senedd) the count was conducted entirely by and under the supervision of the Electoral Commission, who booked the Senedd to use for that purpose. No Assembly staff took part in the conduct of the referendum or the counting or declaration of the results at the Senedd.

Accommodating an event of this size in the Senedd did to some extent involve services within the Assembly, for example staff from Information and Communications Technology, Visitor's services and the Events and Facilities team, were to some extent involved in supporting the event, in the same way as they would have been involved in relation to the holding of any event on the premises. Since, however, this would be deemed to be an integral part of their normal day to day responsibilities in supporting all events which take place on the Assembly Estate it would not be accurate to describe them as being involved in the staffing the referendum and there are no records which would enable their normal activities on the day in question to be allocated between that event and other routine duties.

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA  
  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: 029 20 821813

E-bost/Email: Alison.Rutherford@wales.gov.uk

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

Where staff in the above areas were involved, to any degree, in supporting the referendum count this was done as part of their normal daily duties and no extra resources were required.

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