

# Cross Party Group

17 December 2014

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



## Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 19 November in which you asked:

*I have some questions in regards to the all party meeting on the 18th November 2014 with The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC).*

- 1. Who attended the meeting (Names and party of the Assembly Members)?*
- 2. What Assembly Members do have a membership of the BASC or similar groups?*
- 3. What Assembly Members have a license to shoot birds or other wildlife animals?*
- 4. Can you please supply the minutes of the meeting of the 18th November with BASC and all party group?*
- 5. Please list the Assembly Members who are in the Environmental and Sustainability committee.*
- 6. If food and drinks were provided during the meeting on the 18th November who paid for it and how much were the expenses?*

I respond as follows:

- 1. Who attended the meeting (names and party of the Assembly Members)?*

Andrew RT Davies, AM (Welsh Conservative Party)

Mark Isherwood, AM (Welsh Conservative Party)

Lindsay Whittle, AM (Plaid Cymru)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, AM (Plaid Cymru)

Llyr Gruffydd, AM (Plaid Cymru)

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

William Powell, AM (Welsh Liberal Democrats)

For further information on Cross-Party Groups please refer to their rules of operation. Two relevant extracts are set out in [Annex 1](#).

*2. What Assembly Members do have a membership of the BASC or similar groups?*

Section 36 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and Standing Order 2 of the Assembly's Standing Orders require the National Assembly to maintain and publish a Register of Members Interests of Assembly Members.

Assembly Members are required to register any relevant interests within eight weeks of taking the oath or affirmation and also register within four weeks any changes to those interests.

Please see [Annex 2](#) for the circumstances in which Assembly Members are required to register their interests.

In the event that membership of BASC falls within the criteria, the membership will be registered here:

<http://www.assembly.wales/NAfW%20Documents/Assembly%20Member%20section%20documents/Fourth%20Assembly%20Register%202011-2016/Fourth%20Assembly%20Register%20-%202022%20Oct%202014%20-e.pdf>

No Members have declared membership of BASC.

Unfortunately, I cannot provide any information about "similar" groups without further detail as to what you mean by "similar". However, you will find information about all registered interests on the register.

*3. What Assembly Members have a license to shoot birds or other wildlife animals?*

We do not hold the information that you have requested.

*4. Can you please supply the minutes of the meeting of the 18th November with BASC and all party group?*

Cross-Party Groups have four weeks to produce and publish their minutes. Please see Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the rules.

Minutes of the meeting will be published on the following page:

[http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1&\\$LO\\$=1](http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1&$LO$=1)

As there is planned publication of the information you require, we do not propose to provide the information at this stage as you will be able to view the information when it is published. The reasons that we will not be providing the information at this stage are governed section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For further information see Annex 3.

*5. Please list the Assembly Members who are in the Environmental and Sustainability Committee.*

The information is available here:

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgCommitteeMailingList.aspx?ID=225>

*6. If food and drinks were provided during the meeting on the 18th November who paid for it and how much were the expenses?*

We do not hold the information that you have requested.

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/about\\_us-commission\\_assembly\\_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm)

If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Buddug Saer**  
**Programme Officer**  
**National Assembly for Wales**

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

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

## Annex 1

This extract is taken from the rules of operation of Cross-Party Groups:

### *5. Registration*

*Following the holding of an inaugural AGM or election of office-holders by another means, Cross-Party Groups should register using the appropriate registration form. The form must be signed by the group's Chair and list the membership, which must include at least two other Assembly Members from two other party groups within the Assembly, and names of all Members of the group who are not Assembly Members.*

*The details on the registration forms will be published by Assembly Commission officials on the relevant Cross-Party Groups' section of the Assembly's website.*

*For the purposes of holding an Annual General Meeting, existing Assembly Cross-Party Groups will be expected to hold an AGM within 12 months of the date of these rules coming into effect. Groups registered after this date will be expected to hold an AGM within 12 months of registration.*

### *14. Minutes of Meetings*

*The Chair of the Cross-Party Group will be responsible for ensuring that the minutes of every meeting of the group are provided to the designated Assembly Commission officials within four weeks of the meeting taking place. The minutes must include details of where the meeting was held, who attended the meeting, including the names and titles of group office-holders such as the Chair and Secretary, group Members and external visitors or guests, and a brief description of the issues discussed. The minutes will be published on the relevant Cross-Party Groups' section of the Assembly's website.*

## Annex 2

This extract is taken from the Annex to Standing Order 2 of the National Assembly's standing orders:

### **The Registrable Interests**

5. The registrable interests are:

(i) remunerated directorships held by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, in public and private companies including directorships which are individually unremunerated but where remuneration is paid through another company in the same group;

(ii) employment, office, trade, profession or vocation (apart from membership of the Assembly) for which the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member over the age of sixteen, is remunerated, or in which the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member over the age of sixteen, has any pecuniary interest;

(iii) the names of clients when the interests referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above include services by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member over the age of sixteen, which arise out of, or are related in any manner to, his or her membership of the Assembly;

(iv) gifts, hospitality, material benefits or advantage above a value specified in any resolution of the Assembly received by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, from any company, organisation or person which arise out of, or are related in any manner to, membership of the Assembly;

(v) any remuneration or other material benefit which a Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, receives from any public or private company or other body which has tendered for, is tendering for, or has, a contract with the Assembly;

(vi) financial sponsorship (a) as a candidate for election to the Assembly, where to the knowledge of the Member the sponsorship in any case exceeds 25 per cent of the candidate's election expenses, or (b) as a Member of the Assembly by any person or organisation. In registering such an interest, a Member must state whether any such sponsorship includes any payment to the Member or any material benefit or advantage;

(vii) subject to any resolution of the Assembly, overseas visits made by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, which arise out of, or are related in any

manner to, membership of the Assembly where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the Member or from funds provided by the Assembly or by Parliament or by any organisation of which the Assembly is a member;

(viii) any land and property of the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, which has a substantial value as specified in any resolution of the Assembly or from which a substantial income is derived other than any home used for the personal residential purposes of the Member, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member;

(ix) the names of companies or other bodies in which the Member has, either alone or with or on behalf of the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, a beneficial interest, or in which, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or a dependent child of the Member has a beneficial interest, in shareholdings of a market value greater than one per cent of the issued share capital, or less than one per cent but more than an amount specified in any resolution of the Assembly;

(x) paid or unpaid membership or chairmanship by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, of any body funded in whole or in part out of funds provided by the Assembly.

## Annex 3

### Section 22

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

*(1) Information is exempt information if:*

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not);*
- b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).*

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such the “public interest test” needs to be considered.

This test requires us to consider whether or not the public interest in withholding the information at this stage outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The National Assembly’s rules for the operation of Cross-Party Groups require that *‘the minutes of every meeting of the group are provided to the designated Assembly Commission officials within four weeks of the meeting taking place. The minutes will be published on the relevant Cross-Party Groups’ section of the Assembly’s website.’*

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=388>

As it is our practice to publish the information you seek within such a short timeframe (namely four weeks) we cannot see any that any public interest would be served by departing from these arrangements.

Accordingly, we are of the view that the public interest in adhering to these arrangements outweighs the public interest in earlier disclosure.