

Business and staffing costs to support Members' work

Members of the Senedd split their time between undertaking parliamentary duties in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay and working in their constituencies; meeting with, supporting and representing their constituents.

Members need resources to do their jobs, both in their constituencies and in the Senedd. This includes employing staff, having offices in the communities they represent, and for travel and overnight accommodation when they need to be at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.

The Board sets out what business and staffing support costs Members may claim including any limits or restrictions.

Members employ teams of staff, including caseworkers or researchers, to support them; to help their constituents and to do their job in the Senedd. Members may decide to set up an office or will hold 'surgeries' or meetings in their constituency and share information with their constituents.

Members effectively run small businesses, with staff and offices

Each Member effectively operates as a small business. They employ staff and manage offices, as well as undertaking their core parliamentary duties.

These are business costs not 'expenses' or 'perks'; most people would not consider staffing and office costs in businesses or other organisations to be 'expenses'. The headteacher of a school or the Director of a small business wouldn't be said to claim 'expenses' for their staff, offices or operating costs.

Most private and public sector employees can claim for travel and overnight accommodation costs when working away from home

As is the case for most people employed in the private sector or public sector organisations, Members can also claim for travel and overnight accommodation when

they need to stay overnight in Cardiff or travel elsewhere in the UK for work.

Overnight accommodation rates are regularly reviewed and compared with the wider public sector and other parliaments. Claims are only paid after the Member provides receipts.

Some Members, who live too far away from Cardiff to travel to the Senedd daily, may claim for rental accommodation within set limits. This is a practical measure to ensure Members from communities from all corners of Wales can participate in

Senedd business and that Members are not left out of pocket when carrying out their duties.

These costs are not part of Members' pay. Most of the business costs incurred by Members are staff salaries and office costs.

All Members' claims which have been reimbursed for business and staffing costs, are published online at <https://allowances.senedd.wales/>

By setting clear rules and publishing claims online, the Board encourages transparency, accountability, and value for money in how public funds are used.