

# P-06-1390: Stop all subsidies on food in the Senedd and for Welsh Government staff in general

Pwyllgor Deisebau | 29 Ionawr 2024  
Petitions Committee | 29 January 2024

Reference: SR24/ 7752-7

**Petition Number:** P-06-1390

**Petition title:** Stop all subsidies on food in the Senedd and for Welsh Government staff in general

**Text of petition:**

Given the recent announcement that Welsh Government is considering removing certain items from meal deals, in a bid to force the Welsh public what to eat, this petition calls for an end to subsidising food for Welsh MSs and their staff.

Why should the people of Wales have to suffer financially when those in the Senedd and Welsh Government enjoy a cheap meal?

People in Wales are sick and tired of the constant infringement on our lives by the busy bodies in the Welsh Government who want to tell us what and what not to eat while they enjoy subsidised food and meals.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/390-fry-up-welsh-politicians-26304030>



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## 1. Background

Catering services in the Welsh Government and Senedd estates are provided by external contractors through separate catering contracts.

In a [Freedom of Information request response in July 2023](#), the Welsh Government said the All Wales Catering Contract (AWCC) “provides catering services to its administrative estate only. The contract is outsourced and does not include concessions”.

In another [response to a Freedom of Information request in June 2022](#), the Senedd Commission (Commission) confirmed that “specific catering services are not based on price subsidies for items for sale but on the basis of the total contract costs and budget to provide the range of services required in the outlets”.

## 2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government provided AWCC revenue and subsidy figures for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 which are included in the table below.

Location	2021-22		2022-23	
	Net Income	Net Subsidy	Net Income	Net Subsidy
Aberystwyth	£19,167	£48,154	£26,885	£49,352
Bedwas	n/a	£379	n/a	n/a
Carmarthen	n/a	£363	n/a	n/a
Cathays Park	£132,325	£198,560	£221,987	£182,832
Llandrindod	n/a	£113	n/a	n/a
Llandudno Junction	£15,652	£63,635	£27,786	£63,995
Merthyr Tydfil	£15,876	£52,112	£25,540	£41,330
Penllergaer	n/a	£136	n/a	n/a
Treforest	n/a	£310	n/a	n/a
Hospitality (Primarily Cathays Park)	£6,769	£35,684	£49,824	£23,761
Central Shared Costs	n/a	£39,635	n/a	£34,929
<b>Total</b>	<b>£189,790</b>	<b>£439,078</b>	<b>£352,022</b>	<b>£396,200</b>

### 3. Welsh Parliament action

The cost of providing the total range of services on the Senedd estate is included in the Commission's published Annual Budget. For 2023-24, the total budget for catering services is £430K and includes labour costs, food costs, supplies costs, equipment costs and a management fee.

It allows the range of services on the Senedd estate to be resourced and run, including the public café, staff restaurant, Members' Tea Rooms and Restaurant as well as all of the hospitality services for meetings and events.

The Senedd's annual budget for catering services is detailed in the [Annual Budget for 2023-24](#) table below.

**Table 5: Analysis of Accommodation and Facilities costs**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Rent and rates incl. car parking	£2,007	£1,895	£1,923	£1,951
Maintenance and works	£1,030	£1,035	£1,035	£1,035
Security	£773	£773	£773	£773
Utilities	£582	£1,251	£1,276	£1,301
Cleaning	£533	£560	£572	£584
Catering	£399	£430	£438	£447
Photocopier Rentals	£105	£65	£65	£65
Furniture and Fittings	£60	£60	£60	£60
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,489</b>	<b>£6,069</b>	<b>£6,142</b>	<b>£6,216</b>

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.