

9. Managing our costs in Wales | Electoral Commission Search

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Last updated: 25 April 2022 Summary Our budget varies from year to year depending on the cycle of elections. Our event budget reflects the costs associated with each

year's elections. This varies significantly year-to-year owing to the cycle of elections, and will change if unscheduled polls are added which need to be delivered effectively. This is presented as a separate budget line to allow for more effective

control and scrutiny of our core budget. Spending on core budgets includes our work supporting voters, electoral administrators, parties and campaigners outside of the cycle of elections, as well as our corporate overheads. Our core budget will be no larger at the end of the period, after inflation, than it was at the beginning (using HM Treasury's preferred measure for public spending and inflation assumptions where available). While we would always seek to manage our costs within these budgets,

increases to the rate of inflation or changes to our work programme to reflect changes outside our control represent the main risks to our spending plans. Budgets

2022/23 – 2026/27 £ millions 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 Core expenditure

14.04 14.06 14.51 15.10 15.22 Event 6.08 4.21 5.52 6.64 4.94 The Elections Bill 5.05

3.23 2.77 2.41 2.53 Operational Spending 25.17 21.50 22.80 24.15 22.69 Policy

Development Grants 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 Depreciation 1.33 1.46 1.46 1.46 1.45

Provisions 0.05 0.05 0.05 0.05 0.05 Total Spending plans 28.55 25.01 26.31 27.66

26.19 Capital provisions 0.10 0.10 0.14 0.10 0.10 Capital budget 1.42 0.49 1.63 0.53

0.53 Our capital budgets reflect planned and forecast needs to invest in capitalised

IT hardware and software. The levels of capital spending in 2024/25 and 2026/27

represent new or renewed leases for offices in Cardiff and Edinburgh. We remain

committed to having continued presence in all parts of the UK, and as we take advantage of increasingly flexible ways of working we will keep our office needs

under continuous review. Funding We are jointly funded by the Senedd, the UK Parliament, and the Scottish Parliament. The box below explains more about how that

works. Draft devolved funding shares 2022/23 – 2026/27 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25

2025/26 2026/27 Budget on finding basis (£m) 22.96 21.80 23.18 24.37 22.93 Senedd £m

1.42 1.25 1.25 1.65 1.79 % 6.18% 5.74% 5.39% 6.75% 7.80% UK Parliament £m 19.70 19.03

20.35 20.25 18.33 % 85.81% 87.27% 87.78% 83.12% 79.96% Scottish Parliament £m 1.84

1.52 1.58 2.47 2.81 % 8.01% 6.98% 6.83% 10.13% 12.24% Focus on accountability and

funding Focus on accountability and funding As part of the devolution of powers relating to elections, the Wales Act 2017 made provision for the Commission to become

accountable to the Senedd. The Scotland Act 2016 also makes the Commission accountable to the Scottish Parliament, and we remain accountable to the UK

Parliament. The direct costs of delivering our functions for each parliament are funded by that parliament, with overheads (including depreciation but not capital

budgets or provisions) shared according to population. Cost shares can vary due to changes in work programme or electoral cycle. In Wales, as a result of the Senedd and

Elections (Wales) Act 2020, the Llywydd's Committee oversees our funding and

corporate accountability. In Scotland, this role is undertaken by the Scottish

Parliament Corporate Body, and in the UK Parliament by the Speaker's Committee on the

Electoral Commission. Scrutiny and accountability on specific aspects of our work is

generally undertaken by specific policy committees, such as the Senedd's Local

Government and Housing Committee. Each year in the autumn we submit an estimate of

income and expenditure to the committees, accompanied by our plans for the coming year (or five years when we submit a Corporate Plan). The committees then consider these according to the timetables in each parliament. The plans, budgets and other information that we submit to the committees are as required by each committee. We will continue to work with the committees, the parliamentary officials and other relevant partners to ensure effective accountability. Navigation 8. Underpinning this work in Wales Section 8 of our 2022/23 to 2026/27 corporate plan for Wales 10. Measuring our performance in Wales Section 10 of our 2022/23 to 2026/27 corporate plan for Wales