

## Legal & Governance Services



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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Our Ref: Fol 03-18

Mr S Whittaker  
[request-456021-1af75776@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-456021-1af75776@whatdotheyknow.com)

05<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Mr Whittaker,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Assembly holds information relevant to your request of 09<sup>th</sup> January 2018. In your request you asked for the following information:

*“Please could you provide me with a list showing the number of mobile phones, tablet devices and laptops which have been assigned to MLA’s and their staff over the last three years? I would like these broken down by device type, party and should also indicate the number assigned to MLA’s and those which are assigned to their staff. I would also like to see the cost for these devices including their running costs for data and calls etc. broken down by party (total per party will suffice, no requirement to name individual costs or break commercial confidence about individual contracts) over the same time period.”*

**The Northern Ireland Assembly Commission does not provide mobile phones for Members. Therefore, the running costs for data and calls cannot be provided.**

**The number of laptops and tablets that have been assigned to Members and their support staff are attached at Appendices A, B and C:**

If you feel that the information we have provided does not meet your request fully, please contact this office as soon as possible. You have the right to request a formal review by the Northern Ireland Assembly and if you wish to do so, please write to me at the above address.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

*Karl Hedley*

**KARL HEDLEY**  
**Governance Services**

## Appendix A

Between 10/01/2015 and 30/03/2016 the number of tablet computers assigned to MLAs was as follows.

Party	MLAs
DUP	38
Sinn Fein	29
UUP	16
SDLP	14
Alliance	8
TUV	1
Green	1
Independent	1

These tablet devices were recovered and re-assigned to MLAs following the 2016 Assembly Election therefore between 09/05/2016 and 25/01/2017 the number of tablets issued was as follows.

Party	MLAs
DUP	38
Sinn Fein	28
UUP	16
SDLP	12
Alliance	8
TUV	1
People Before Profit Alliance	2
Green	2
Independent	1

These tablet devices were recovered from MLAs on 25/01/2017 prior to the Assembly Election in March 2017 and have not yet been re-assigned as the Assembly Committees have not been established.

The tablet computer model is the Acer Iconia W510. Each device cost £451 plus £43.78 for 3 years' maintenance and Support – Giving a total cost per device of £494.78.

## Appendix B

From 10/01/2015 until the Assembly Election in May 2016 the number of laptop computers assigned to MLAs was as follows.

Party	MLAs	Party Support
DUP	36	0
Sinn Fein	45	4
UUP	14	0
SDLP	20	2
Alliance	6	0
TUV	0	0
Green	2	0
Independent	2	0
UKIP	2	0

Laptop computers are not recovered from MLAs during Assembly Elections as they are required for use in ongoing constituency business. Following the Assembly Election in May 2016 laptops were recovered from outgoing MLAs (i.e. those retiring or not returned) and were reallocated to incoming MLAs. The number of laptop computers assigned to MLAs following the Assembly Election in May 2016 was as follows.

Party	MLAs	Party Support
DUP	37	0
Sinn Fein	48	3
UUP	14	0
SDLP	13	2
Alliance	11	0
TUV	0	0
Green	3	0
Independent	1	0
PBPA	2	0

## Appendix C

Following the Assembly Election in March 2017 laptops were recovered from outgoing MLAs (i.e. those retiring or not returned) and were reallocated to incoming MLAs. The number of laptop computers currently assigned to MLAs is as follows.

Party	MLAs	Party Support
DUP	26	0
Sinn Fein	45	3
UUP	12	0
SDLP	14	2
Alliance	11	0
TUV	0	0
Green	3	0
Independent	1	0
PBPA	1	0
UKIP	2	0

The model of Laptop issued is the HP Elitebook 840 G1 at a cost of £558.41 per unit plus £30.85 for 3 years' maintenance and support – Giving a total cost per device of £589.26.