

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 7th March 2023

Title: Revised Coroner Pay Arrangements 2022/2023 & 2023/24

Purpose of the report: Approve Coroner and Assistant Coroner pay arrangements

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member: Cllr. Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection

BACKGROUND

On 14th February 2023 Cabinet approved the pay arrangements for 2023/24:
Minute:

“155. To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Legal and Governance upon the Coroner Pay Arrangements 2023/24

Minutes:

DECISION:

To approve the following pay rates effective from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

- 1) Senior part-time Coroner:
 - i. Retention Salary of £21,120 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability.
 - ii. Using the agreed daily rate of £465, to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £11,625 including training days.
Total: £32,745 per annum (plus on-costs).
 - iii. Office expenses/business support allowance – £5,000 p/a.
- 2) Assistant Coroner:

The daily rates will be:

 - full day: £397; and
 - half day: £199.

Reason for the decision:

Compliance with relevant legislation and JNC Circulars, mitigation of challenge and safeguarding public funds.”

This was based on the JNC Circular 66 which set out pay rates for the Coroner and Assistant Coroner for 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, as no further guidance had been issued by the JNC.

On 16/2/23 the JNC issued JNC Circular 67 (**Appendix 1**):

“With effect from 1st April 2022, local salaries and day rates for individuals derived from the JNC arrangements below should be increased by 1.56%.
The new JNC figures are provided in the table below:

Part-time Senior coroner

Part-time senior coroner	1st April 2022
Base salary	£21,449
Daily rate	£472 to £536

Assistant coroner	1st April 2022
Daily rate	£403 to £486

Current Position

It is recommended that the pay rates agreed by Cabinet on 14/2/23 are amended to take into account the requirements of the JNC Circular 67 revised pay scales, backdated to 1/4/22.

Proposals

2022/23

Cabinet is asked to approve the following Senior Coroner & Assistant Coroner amended fees arrangements effective from the 1st of April 2022 – 31st March 2023

To approve the following pay rates backdated to 1st April 2022:

1) Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £21,449 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2023. Extra £329.
- ii) Using the daily rate of £472.25 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £11,806 (@25 days pa including training days) from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Total annual sum £33,255 per annum (plus on-costs).

Additional sums:

Retention £329

Daily rate: £181

Total £510- net arrears to be paid by way of capitalised sum by 31/3/23.

2) Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £403;
- half day: £202.

The changes represent additional sum of £6 and £3 respectively.

The net arrears (£99.94 to date) to be paid by way of capitalised sum by 31/3/23.

There is no change to the **Senior Coroner** Office expenses/business support allowance – £5,000 p/a - from 1st of April 2022 to 31st of March 2023.

2023/2024

Cabinet is also asked to approve the following Senior Coroner & Assistant Coroner amended fees arrangements effective from the 1st of April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

To approve the following pay rates effective from 1st April 2023:

1) Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £21,449 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- ii) Using the agreed daily rate of £472.25 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £11,806 (@25 days pa including training days from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Total: £33,255 per annum (plus on-costs).

The changes represent additional sum of £510 pa.

2) Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £403;
- half day: £202.

The changes represent additional fees of £6 and £3 respectively

There is no change to the **Senior Coroner** Office expenses/business support allowance – £5,000 p/a - from 1st of April 2023 to 31st of March 2024.

	Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why	No- this report does not represent a change in policy or strategy
Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Summary: Long term: Collaboration: Involvement: Prevention: Integration:	
Recommendations:	That Cabinet amends Cabinet 14/2/23 Minute 155 to reflect the changes recommended by JNC Circular 67 as follows:	

1) 2022/2023 (1/4/22-31/3/23):

Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £21,449 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

- ii) Using the daily rate of £472.25 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £11,806 (@25 days pa including training days)

Total annual sum £33,255 per annum (plus on-costs).

Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £403;
- half day: £202.

2) 2023/24 (1/4/23-31/3/24):

Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £21,449 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. .
- ii) Using the daily rate of £472.25 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £11,806 (@25 days pa including training days) from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Total annual sum £33,255 per annum (plus on-costs).

Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £403;
- half day: £202.

Reasons for decision:	Compliance with relevant legislation and JNC Circulars, mitigation of challenge and safeguarding public funds.
Overview and Scrutiny:	None
Policy Framework:	Not applicable
Corporate Well-being Objectives:	Boosting the economy, supporting businesses and enabling employment (providing an efficient coroner service)
Finance and Procurement implications:	Continuation of current arrangements, potential for increased salary costs and budget implications relating to pay of Coroner and Assistant Coroner.
Legal Implications:	Compliance with relevant legislation
Staffing implications:	None - Coroner and Assistant Coroner are not classed as Council employees.
Property / asset implications:	None

Risk(s):	Risk of legal challenge by the Coroner & Assistant Coroner if recommendations not followed.
Statutory Powers:	Coroners & Justice Act 2009: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/contents The Coroners Allowances, Fees and Expenses Regulations 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1615/made
Background Papers:	JNC Circular 63 November 2018: https://www.coronersociety.org.uk/img/pics/pdf_1603105_217-232.pdf JNC Circular 66 – Coroner’s Pay 2021/2022: https://www.local.gov.uk/jnc-circular-no66-coroners-pay-202122 Cabinet report 14/2/23: Ceredigion County Council Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 14th February, 2023, 10.00 am
Appendices:	Appendix 1- JNC Circular 67
Corporate Lead Officer:	Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)
Reporting Officer:	Elin Prysor. Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)
Date:	20th February 2023

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**JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
 FOR CORONERS**

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**To: Chief Executives (London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts, County Councils and
 Unitary Councils in England and Wales)**

16 February 2022

CORONERS' CIRCULAR No 67

Dear Sir/Madam

JNC for Coroners – Pay 2022/23

We write to confirm that agreement has now been reached. With effect from 1st April 2022, local salaries and day rates for individuals derived from the JNC arrangements below should be increased by 1.56%.

The new JNC figures are provided in the table below:

Senior coroner	1st April 2022
Range	£125,480 to £139,423
Part-time senior coroner	1st April 2022
Base salary	£21,449
Daily rate	£472 to £536
Area coroner	1st April 2022
Range	£93,306 to £107,248
Assistant coroner	1st April 2022
Daily rate	£403 to £486

Agreement has also been reached in principle that, subject to terms of reference being agreed, there will be a joint update of the 2017 Korn Ferry Hay report.

Yours faithfully

SARAH WARD
JOANNE KEARSLEY
 Joint Secretaries