

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 4th July 2023

Title: Revised Coroner Pay Arrangements 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 the 7th of March 2023 Cabinet approved the Coroner and Assistant Coroner pay arrangements for 2023/24 in accordance with the pay rates set out in JNC Circular 67:

The pay rates for 2023/24 (1/4/23-31/3/24) were set as follows (Minute 177):

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 p/a 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.

CURRENT POSITION

On the 5th of June 2023 the JNC issued JNC Circular 68 (**Appendix 1**):

“With effect from 1st April 2023, local salaries and day rates for individuals derived from the JNC arrangements below should be increased by 3.5%.”

The new JNC figures are provided in the table below:

Part-time senior coroner

Part-time senior coroner	1 April 2023
Base salary	£22,200
Daily rate	£489 to £555

Assistant coroner

Assistant coroner	1 April 2023
Daily rate	£417 to £503

It is recommended that the pay rates agreed by Cabinet on the 7th of March 2023 are amended to take into account the requirements of the JNC Circular 68 revised pay scales, backdated to the 1st of April 2023.

**Proposals
2023/24**

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

1) Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £22,200 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 £489 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,225 (@25 days pa including training days from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
Total: £34,425 per annum (plus on-costs).

The changes represent an additional sum of £1,170 pa.

2) Assistant Coroner:

full day: £417;
half day: £209.

The changes represent additional fees of £20 and £7 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.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:	<p>Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why Summary: This report does not represent a change in policy or strategy Long term: Collaboration: Involvement: Prevention: Integration:</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That cabinet approves the following Senior Coroner and Assistant Coroner pay rates for 2023/24 in accordance with JNC Circular 68:</p> <p>1) Senior part-time Coroner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Retention Salary of £22,200 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 £489 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,225 (@25 days pa including training days from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. <p>Total: £34,425 per annum (plus on-costs).</p>
	<p>2) Assistant Coroner: full day: £417; half day: £209.</p>
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:	<p>Coroners & Justice Act 2009: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/contents</p> <p>The Coroners Allowances, Fees and Expenses Regulations 2013: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1615/made</p>
Background Papers:	<p>JNC Circular 67 (16 February 2023): https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/coroners/coroners-circulars/jnc-coroners-circular-no-67</p> <p>JNC Circular 68 (5 June 2023): https://www.coronersociety.org.uk/announcements/jnc---coroners-circular-no-68-with-effect-from-1st-april-2023/</p> <p>Cabinet report 7/03/23: https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=148&MId=392&Ver=4&LLL=0</p>
Appendices:	Appendix 1: JNC Circular 68
Corporate Lead Officer:	Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)
Reporting Officer:	Elin Prysor
Date:	12 th June 2023

Management Side Secretary, Sarah Ward
 Local Government Association
 18 Smith Square,
 London, SW1P 3HZ
coroners.queries@local.gov.uk

**JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
 FOR CORONERS**

Officers' Side Secretary, Joanne Kearsley
 2/3rd Floor, Newgate House
 Rochdale,
 OL16 1AT
joanne.kearsley@rochdale.gov.uk

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

5 June 2023

CORONERS' CIRCULAR No 68

Dear Sir/Madam

JNC for Coroners – Pay 2023/24

We write to confirm that agreement has now been reached. With effect from 1st April 2023, local salaries and day rates for individuals derived from the JNC arrangements below should be increased by 3.5%.

The new JNC figures are provided in the table below:

Senior coroner	1st April 2023
Range	£129,872 to £144,303
Part-time senior coroner	1st April 2023
Base salary	£22,200
Daily rate	£489 to £555
Area coroner	1st April 2023
Range	£96,572 to £111,002
Assistant coroner	1st April 2023
Daily rate	£417 to £503

Detailed discussion will take place on potential terms of reference following on from the previous in principle JNC agreement that, subject to the terms of reference being agreed, there will be a joint update of the 2017 Korn Ferry Hay report. This would be with the intention of such work informing the pay negotiation for 2024.

Yours faithfully

**SARAH WARD
 JOANNE KEARSLEY**

Joint Secretaries