

# Cardiff in full

The council tax bill and who receives it, spending by service, payments over £500, senior pay, the report card and how the council compares.

**Figures as of:** 22 September 2026

**Generated on:** 25 September 2026

**Version:** 25 September 2026. Earlier versions stay available at <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/>

**Live version:** <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-cardiff>

**This is a snapshot.** It was generated on 25 September 2026 and does not change. The figures may have been updated since: the live version is at <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-cardiff>.

Published by [Tekstak Ltd](#). Our words, analysis and charts are licensed under CC BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), credit Tekstak Ltd. Figures from other bodies are used under each source's own licence, listed in the sources appendix.

This site takes no side. Every figure is quoted from the body that publishes it, with its date and source; views are attributed to the people and organisations who hold them. Our neutrality policy: <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/neutrality/>

# Contents

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| Executive summary                             | 3  |
| Cardiff: your area                            | 4  |
| Council tax in Cardiff                        | 6  |
| Where your council tax goes in Cardiff        | 10 |
| Parking income in Cardiff                     | 13 |
| Cardiff: senior pay and councillor allowances | 15 |
| Sources and licences                          | 18 |

# Executive summary

The key figures from each part of this report, with the change on a year earlier where the source gives one.

## Cardiff: your area

**£2,013**

Band D council tax, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£4.8m**

Parking surplus, 2024-25  
As of 6 April 2024

**64.0%**

Household waste recycled,  
2024-25

## Council tax in Cardiff

**£2,013**

Band D a year, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£1,342**

Band A, the lowest  
As of 6 April 2026

**-£313**

Band D against the Wales average  
of £2,326  
Below average  
As of 6 April 2026

## Where your council tax goes in Cardiff

**£2,013.18**

Band D bill, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£1,603.72**

Goes to Cardiff itself (80%)  
As of 6 April 2026

**£708.92**

Largest line: education  
As of 16 October 2025

## Parking income in Cardiff

**£4.78m**

Parking surplus  
+£1.66m (+53.2%) vs 2023-24  
2024-25

**£10.61m**

Parking income  
+£1.84m (+20.9%) vs 2023-24  
2024-25

**£5.83m**

Spending on parking  
+£0.17m (+3.1%) vs 2023-24  
2024-25

## Cardiff: senior pay and councillor allowances

**£248,491**

Chief Executive, 2025-26

**61**

Staff paid £100,000 or more,  
2025-26

**£1,951,000**

Members' allowances, 2025-26

# Cardiff: your area

[Your area](#) · Last updated 23 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/your-area/cardiff/>

Cardiff sets a Band D council tax of **£2,013** for 2026-27, 22 of 22 councils in Wales from the highest. Police: South Wales. Fire and rescue: South Wales. Health: Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. This page links to everything the site holds on the area; the full bill, the report card and parking each have a page of their own.

## Key figures

**£2,013**

Band D council tax, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£4.8m**

Parking surplus, 2024-25  
As of 6 April 2024

**64.0%**

Household waste recycled,  
2024-25

## What is the council tax in Cardiff?

Band D is **£2,013** a year for 2026-27, and Band A, the lowest, **£1,342**. That is £313 below the Wales average of £2,326, 22 of 22 in Wales from the highest. It rose 4.5% on last year.

Of a Band D bill, **£1,604** goes to County or county borough council, **£405** goes to Police and crime commissioner, **£4** goes to Community council.

[Every band, who gets the money and how Cardiff compares](#)

[Where your council tax goes: from your bill to each service](#)

[Cardiff: senior pay and councillors' allowances](#)

## How does the council compare?

- Council tax rise this year 4.5% Lower than the Wales figure of 5.2%
- Council tax per head £826 Lower than the Wales figure of £963
- Ombudsman interventions 20% (37 of 183 closed) Higher than the Wales figure of 13%
- Recycling rate 64.0% Lower than the Wales figure of 68.4%
- Planning decisions on time 98.6% Higher than the Wales figure of 90.5%

Each figure is set against the figure for Wales as a whole. They are plain comparisons, one measure at a time: there is no overall score and no ranking of councils. Higher is not always better or worse; what each measure does and does not show is on the [methodology page](#).

[The full report card: complaints, finances, audit, pay and services](#)

## Roads, bins and planning

Roads, recycling and planning in Cardiff

| Measure                                       | Figure | Period                |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Household waste reused, recycled or composted | 64.0%  | 2024-25               |
| Planning decisions made on time               | 98.6%  | January to March 2026 |

Road condition is not published in the same form for Wales councils. Road condition is from the Department for Transport; each figure is compared with Wales as a whole in the [report card](#).

## What does the council make from parking?

Parking income and surplus for Cardiff

| Authority | Year    | Income | Surplus |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Cardiff   | 2024-25 | £10.6m | £4.8m   |

What the law lets a council spend a parking surplus on is on [parking fines and council parking income](#).

Who is your MP?

A council area can span several constituencies, so your MP depends on your address. Enter your postcode in the box at the top of this page to see your MP and what their office cost, or [find any MP by name or constituency](#).

How much crime is recorded here?

In the 12 months to June 2026, police recorded **94.5 crimes per 1,000 residents** in Cardiff, excluding anti-social behaviour, against 81.3 across Wales.

[Cardiff on the crime map, down to streets of a few hundred homes](#)

Your police precept

A Band D home in Cardiff pays **£405.14** police precept in 2026-27. It funds **South Wales**, which has £468m in all for 2026-27. The precept is set once for the whole force area and spent across the whole force area, so the crime figures above for Cardiff are not what its precept bought.

[South Wales: funding, precept and results for the whole force](#)

Who runs police, fire, health and ambulances here?

The bodies that serve Cardiff, and their latest money

| Service             | Body                                          | Latest           | Per resident |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Police              | South Wales                                   | £468m (2026-27)  | £345         |
| Fire and rescue     | South Wales Fire and Rescue Service           | £90m (2024-25)   | £57.21       |
| Ambulance           | Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust | £345m (2025-26)  | £109         |
| NHS                 | Cardiff and Vale University Health Board      | £1.4bn (2023-24) | £2,791       |
| Roads               | Cardiff                                       | £11m (2024-25)   | £28.27       |
| Schools             | Cardiff                                       | £469m (2024-25)  | £1,228       |
| Council spending    | Cardiff                                       | £1.1bn (2024-25) | £2,777       |
| Social care         | Cardiff                                       | £315m (2024-25)  | £825         |
| Housing             | Cardiff                                       | £148m (2024-25)  | £386         |
| Waste and recycling | Cardiff                                       | not published    | —            |

Each body serves a wider area than Cardiff, and its money is for the whole of that area. Its page has its funding over time and what is recorded alongside it; [public services near you](#) looks them up for any postcode. Water is not covered yet: see [Discover Water](#).

Which bodies cover Cardiff: ONS lookups of local authorities to police force areas, fire and rescue authorities, integrated care boards and local health boards (Open Government Licence v3.0).

How does Cardiff look against other councils?

See Cardiff on [the council map](#), alongside every other council on council tax, complaints, reserves, audit and inspections, or [browse every council](#).

Common questions

- How much is council tax in Cardiff? Band D is £2,013 a year for 2026-27. [Every band](#).
- Which police force covers Cardiff? South Wales police force area. Fire and rescue: South Wales.

# Council tax in Cardiff

[Your area](#) · Last updated 23 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/wales/cardiff/>

Council tax in Cardiff for 2026-27 is **£2,013** a year for a Band D home, £1,342 for Band A and £4,697 for the top band. That is £313 below the Wales average of £2,326. It ranks 22 of 22 billing areas in Wales. Figures are the council's own set rates. Wales publishes Band D only, so the other bands here are worked out from the statutory ratios.

## Key figures

**£2,013**

Band D a year, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£1,342**

Band A, the lowest  
As of 6 April 2026

**-£313**

Band D against the Wales average  
of £2,326  
Below average  
As of 6 April 2026

**22 of 22**

Rank in Wales, highest first  
As of 6 April 2026

## What is the bill for each band?

Council tax by band in Cardiff, bands A to I

| Band   | A year    | A month |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Band A | £1,342.12 | £111.84 |
| Band B | £1,565.81 | £130.48 |
| Band C | £1,789.49 | £149.12 |
| Band D | £2,013.18 | £167.77 |
| Band E | £2,460.55 | £205.05 |
| Band F | £2,907.93 | £242.33 |
| Band G | £3,355.30 | £279.61 |
| Band H | £4,026.36 | £335.53 |
| Band I | £4,697.42 | £391.45 |

Wales publishes Band D only. The other bands are derived using the statutory ratios, which are fixed in law and the same for every Welsh authority, so these are exact rather than estimated.

## Who gets the money?

Band D bill in Cardiff by receiving body

| Who receives it                  | Band D | Share |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| County or county borough council | £1,604 | 80%   |
| Police and crime commissioner    | £405   | 20%   |
| Community council                | £4     | 0%    |

Each body sets its own precept and the council simply collects them together. The council that sends the bill keeps only its own share.

[Where your council tax goes: from your bill to each service](#)

## How does it compare?

Band D here is **£313** below the Wales average, 22 of 22 councils from the highest. It rose 5% on last year.

### Cardiff among the Wales councils nearest it, Band D 2026-27

|                   |             |        |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | <div></div> | £2,289 |
| Isle of Anglesey  | <div></div> | £2,261 |
| Swansea           | <div></div> | £2,238 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | <div></div> | £2,232 |
| Pembrokeshire     | <div></div> | £2,166 |
| Torfaen           | <div></div> | £2,156 |
| Newport           | <div></div> | £2,088 |
| Caerphilly        | <div></div> | £2,083 |
| Cardiff (Cardiff) | <div></div> | £2,013 |

Ranked highest first. Every council is in the full table.

## How does Cardiff compare? The report card

Official figures on complaints, finances, audit, pay and services for Cardiff, each from the body that published it and set against the figure for Wales. See every council on the [council map](#).

- Council tax rise this year 4.5% Lower than the Wales figure of 5.2%
- Council tax per head £826 Lower than the Wales figure of £963
- Ombudsman interventions 20% (37 of 183 closed) Higher than the Wales figure of 13%
- Recycling rate 64.0% Lower than the Wales figure of 68.4%
- Planning decisions on time 98.6% Higher than the Wales figure of 90.5%

Each figure is set against the figure for Wales as a whole. They are plain comparisons, one measure at a time: there is no overall score and no ranking of councils. Higher is not always better or worse; what each measure does and does not show is on the [methodology page](#).

## What do complaints to the ombudsman show?

### Public Services Ombudsman for Wales: Cardiff, 2024-25

| Measure                               | Cardiff  | For comparison            |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Complaints closed                     | 183      | —                         |
| Closed with the Ombudsman intervening | 37 (20%) | 13% across Welsh councils |

The Ombudsman publishes one row per closed case; the counts here are this site's own, from those rows, for the 2024-25 financial year. The Ombudsman's annual letter to each council may count slightly differently.

Source: [Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Open data: complaints closed](#), 2024-25.

## How healthy are its finances?

### Reserves, spending and borrowing: Cardiff

| Measure                               | Cardiff | For comparison |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Outstanding borrowing at 30 June 2026 | £1.16bn | —              |

The Welsh Government publishes council reserves as a PDF report only, so no figure is shown here. Much of any council's reserves is set aside for particular purposes. Borrowing is total outstanding loans of every kind; councils borrow mainly to pay for buildings, roads and housing, and the figure does not show what the borrowing was for.

Source: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local authority borrowing and investment live table](#), 30 June 2026.

## What have the auditors said?

### Audit reports: Cardiff

| Report                                    | Title                                                                                        | Published        |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Latest local report (Audit Wales)         | Cardiff Council – Recruitment and retention challenges – the right people at the right time? | 1 September 2026 |
| Latest Annual Audit Summary (Audit Wales) | Cardiff Council – Annual Audit Summary 2024                                                  | 21 March 2025    |

Audit Wales publishes an Annual Audit Summary for each council, which states its opinion on the accounts, and reports on particular services. Follow each link for the findings in full.

Source: [Audit Wales, Local reports and Annual Audit Summaries](#), latest report. Checked 22 September 2026.

### What are senior staff and councillors paid?

#### Pay and allowances: Cardiff, from the statement of accounts

| Measure                        | 2025-26    | 2024-25    |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Employees paid £60,000 or more | 953        | 725        |
| Councillors' allowances        | £1,951,000 | £1,839,000 |

The count is up 228 on the year before. Welsh threshold £60,000. Note 8.2: 'the number of employees, whose remuneration is over £60,000 per annum within bands of £5,000 ... including senior officers whose remuneration is disclosed in more detail in note 8.3. It excludes any staff paid via agency.' Includes some severance payments and Returning Officer fees; excludes employer's pension. Separately identifies individuals directly employed by school governing bodies. Non Schools and Teaching columns; totals Non Schools 240 / Teaching 713 (2025/26) and 181 / 544 (2024/25). Runs of all-zero bands collapsed here. The accounts describe the allowances figure as "The total amount of Members' Allowances (including basic and special responsibility) paid in 2025/26 was £1.951 million (£1.839 million in 2024/25)". These are draft accounts and may change at audit. Thresholds are not adjusted for inflation, so more staff cross them each year as pay rises.

Source: [Cardiff, Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26](#), PDF pages 63-64, Note 8.2. Checked 24 September 2026.

### How are its services rated?

#### Service ratings and performance: Cardiff

| Measure                                                                               | Cardiff | For comparison  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Municipal waste reused, recycled or composted (the statutory target measure), 2024-25 | 64.0%   | 68.4% for Wales |
| Planning decisions on time, January to March 2026                                     | 98.6%   | 90.5% for Wales |

Inspections happen at different times, so a rating can be several years old; the date is shown with each. Planning figures are measured differently in each nation: share of planning applications determined within the statutory or an agreed time, in one quarter. Recycling rates are measured differently in England, Scotland and Wales, so compare within a nation.

Source: [Welsh Government, Local authority municipal waste management](#), 2024-25; [Welsh Government, Development management quarterly survey](#), January to March 2026.

### What has happened recently?

Decisions and publications by official bodies about Cardiff, newest first. Each links to the body that made or published it. News reports are not included.

- 1 September 2026 Audit [Audit Wales report: Recruitment and retention challenges – the right people at the right time?](#) Audit Wales
- 1 April 2026 Council tax [Council tax for 2026-27: Band D £2,013, up 4.5% on the year before](#) Welsh Government
- 21 March 2025 Audit [Annual Audit Summary 2024](#) Audit Wales
- 5 May 2022 Election [Local election: 79 seats won](#) Labour Party 55, Conservative and Unionist Party 11, Liberal Democrats 10, Plaid Cymru, Green Party, Common Ground 2, Propel 1 Democracy Club

### Does the council think something here is wrong?

If you represent Cardiff and think a figure here is wrong, out of date or unfairly presented, email [hello@whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk](mailto:hello@whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk) with this page's address and the source you would point to. Every correction is logged, with its date, on the [corrections page](#).

## How much of the council's spending does this cover?

Council tax funds 26% of this authority's budget. The rest comes from central government grant, business rates and fees. That is why a grant cut can raise your bill even when the council has not changed what it does, and why cutting council tax would not shrink services by the same proportion.

## Where can I find out more?

[What council tax is and why it works this way](#), including why the bands are still based on 1991 property values in England and Scotland, and [how every area compares](#), everything else on [Cardiff: parking, roads, your MP and local services](#), and [Cardiff on the council map](#).

## Common questions

- How much is council tax in Cardiff? Band D is £2,013 a year for 2026-27. Band A is £1,342 and the top band £4,697.
- Is council tax in Cardiff higher than average? No. Band D here is £313 below the Wales average of £2,326.

# Where your council tax goes in Cardiff

Your area · Last updated 23 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/wales/cardiff/where-it-goes/>

A Band D council tax bill in **Cardiff** is **£2,013.18** for 2026-27, split between Cardiff £1,603.72, South Wales Police £405.14, Community and town councils (average for the area) £4.32. Shared out in proportion to what each body spends, the largest single line is education at Cardiff: **£708.92** of the bill. Council tax pays for 11% of the council's own spending; the rest is government grant, business rates and fees.

## Key figures

**£2,013.18**

Band D bill, 2026-27  
As of 6 April 2026

**£1,603.72**

Goes to Cardiff itself (80%)  
As of 6 April 2026

**£708.92**

Largest line: education  
As of 16 October 2025

**10.7%**

Of the council's money that comes  
from council tax, 2024-25  
As of 16 October 2025

## Who gets your bill

Figures are for a **Band D** home. Bands A to I pay a fixed fraction of this, set in law.

Fire and rescue in Wales is paid for by a levy on each council, so it is inside the council part of the bill rather than a separate precept.

## And where does that bit go?

Choose any part of the bill to see how it divides, then keep going as far as the published returns allow. Every level has its own link you can share.

An interactive map or explorer appears here on the live page.

## Parks, street cleaning and roads here

What Cardiff spent, net of income, on the lines readers ask about most. Roads and street cleaning are also shown per mile of road the council looks after, where it is the highway authority. Gully cleaning and verge cutting are inside routine maintenance; no return splits them out.

Cardiff, 2024-25

| Line                                          | Net spending | Per resident | Similar councils, per resident | Per mile of road          | Change                |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Parks and open spaces (including play areas)  | £8.3m        | £22          | £24                            | —                         | up 2.1% on 2023-24    |
| Street cleaning                               | £10.5m       | £28          | £19                            | £15,449 (similar: £5,361) | up 1.4% on 2023-24    |
| Road and bridge maintenance                   | £6.5m        | £17          | £36                            | £9,499 (similar: £10,012) | down 6.5% on 2023-24  |
| Environmental, safety and routine maintenance | £2.9m        | £7.60        | £23                            | £4,265 (similar: £4,060)  | down 21.4% on 2023-24 |
| Structural maintenance (resurfacing, bridges) | £3.6m        | £9.33        | £14                            | £5,234 (similar: £2,561)  | up 10.7% on 2023-24   |
| Winter service (gritting)                     | £593k        | £1.55        | £4.07                          | £872 (similar: £1,156)    | up 8.0% on 2023-24    |
| Street lighting (including energy)            | £3.8m        | £9.87        | £12                            | £5,535 (similar: £3,081)  | down 10.1% on 2023-24 |

Miles of road: Department for Transport road lengths, 2025; locally managed major roads and all minor roads. More on [what council tax does and doesn't pay for](#).

What it adds up to

Cardiff: net spending per resident by service, 2024-25, against the median for Welsh councils

| Service                               | Per resident | Median |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Education                             | £1,229       | £1,247 |
| Adult social care                     | £465         | £623   |
| Housing (not council homes)           | £387         | £319   |
| Children's social care                | £361         | £347   |
| Environment and regulation            | £137         | £169   |
| Roads and transport                   | £69          | £105   |
| Running the council                   | £67          | £92    |
| Parks, leisure, libraries and culture | £51          | £80    |
| Planning and development              | £16          | £67    |

- Staff costs are not published by service for Cardiff, so its split between its own staff and everything else cannot be shown.

What this data does and doesn't show

- These are each body's own figures, as reported to government in its revenue outturn return. Net spending is after the fees, charges and grants a service brings in.
- Your bill is for 2026-27; it is shared out using the latest published return, which covers an earlier year. The mix of spending changes little from one year to the next, but it does change.
- Council tax is not ring-fenced: this shows your bill in proportion to spending, not what your money bought. Where a precept is set aside for adult social care, it is shown against adult social care.
- No council publishes spending at street or property level, so nothing here says what was spent near you.
- Sub-service lines are the ones the national returns itemise. Councils describe their own budgets differently; their budget books and statements of accounts have more detail.

Sources

- Welsh Government, [Composition of average band D council tax by billing authority \(StatsWales\)](#), published 24 March 2026. Open Government Licence v3.0.
- Welsh Government, [Local authority revenue outturn expenditure and financing \(StatsWales\)](#), published 16 October 2025. Open Government Licence v3.0.

How the split is worked out, and how the three nations' returns are matched to one list of services, is on the [methodology page](#). The dataset is on the [data page](#). See also [council tax in Cardiff](#) and [everything else about Cardiff](#).

## Common questions

- **What does council tax pay for in Cardiff?** A Band D bill of £2,013.18 is split between Cardiff, South Wales Police, Community and town councils (average for the area). In proportion to spending, the largest line is education, £708.92.
- **Is council tax ring-fenced for particular services?** No. Council tax is pooled with grants, business rates and fees. The adult social care precept is the exception: councils raise it for adult social care.

# Parking income in Cardiff

Your area · Last updated 23 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/parking/cardiff/>

In 2024–25 Cardiff took **£10.6m** in parking income and spent **£5.8m**, a **surplus of £4.8m** against £3.1m in 2023–24 (+53%), the largest of 22 councils in Wales. Figures are from the council's own return to the Welsh Government.

## Key figures

**£4.78m**

Parking surplus  
+£1.66m (+53.2%) vs 2023–24  
2024–25

**£10.61m**

Parking income  
+£1.84m (+20.9%) vs 2023–24  
2024–25

**£5.83m**

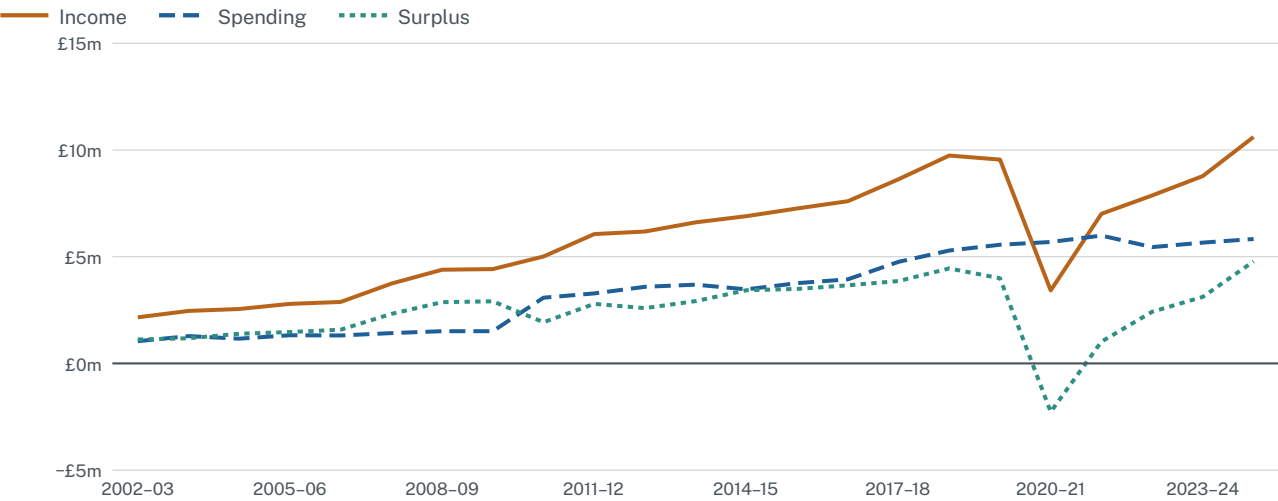
Spending on parking  
+£0.17m (+3.1%) vs 2023–24  
2024–25

**1 of 22**

Rank in Wales, largest surplus first  
2024–25

## How much has Cardiff made from parking each year?

Cardiff: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million



Cardiff: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million. Income: £2.16m in 2002–03, £10.61m in 2024–25. Spending: £1.04m in 2002–03, £5.83m in 2024–25. Surplus: £1.12m in 2002–03, £4.78m in 2024–25.

Wales reports parking as a single line, so there is no on-street and car park split.

All figures are cash, in the council's own return. The most recent year is a first release and may be revised. Cardiff is recorded as: Unitary Authority.

## What can Cardiff spend a surplus on?

On-street parking charges and all council parking penalty charges (England and Wales)

Ring-fenced by law a ring-fenced parking account. A surplus may only be spent on parking, public transport, highway and environmental improvements and similar purposes; a deficit is made good from the general fund.

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s55, as applied in England by SI 2022/71, regs 25 and 27](#)

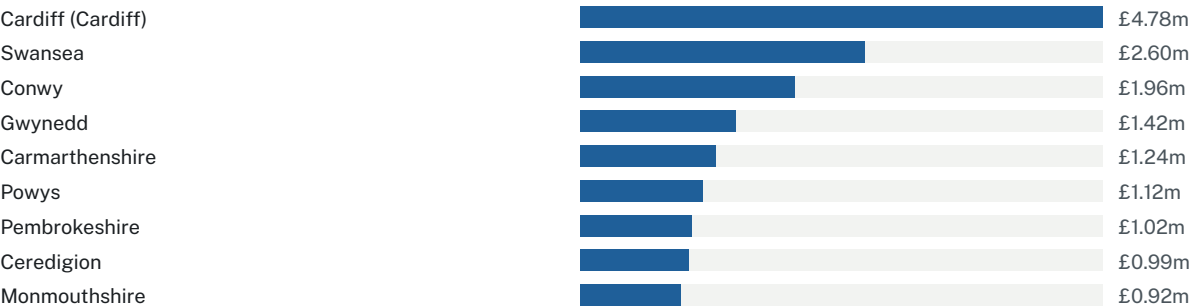
Council car park (off-street) tariffs

Kept by the body that collects it the council's general fund. Section 55 covers on-street parking and enforcement income, not car park fees. Not verified

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s55\(1\), and DfT statutory guidance on civil parking enforcement](#)

How does Cardiff compare with other councils?

Cardiff among the Wales councils nearest it, parking surplus 2024–25



Ranked largest surplus first; a negative figure is a deficit. Every council is in the full tables.

[Every council's parking surplus](#), penalty charge levels and the national trend.

# Cardiff: senior pay and councillor allowances

Your area · Last updated 23 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/councils/pay-and-allowances/cardiff/>

In its draft statement of accounts for 2025-26, Cardiff reports total remuneration of **£248,491** for its chief executive (including employer pension contributions), **61** employees paid £100,000 or more, and **£1,951,000** paid in members' allowances.

## Key figures

|                                                           |                                                   |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>£248,491</b><br>Chief Executive, 2025-26               | <b>61</b><br>Staff paid £100,000 or more, 2025-26 | <b>£1,951,000</b><br>Members' allowances, 2025-26 |
| <b>£19,771</b><br>Basic allowance per councillor, 2025-26 |                                                   |                                                   |

## Chief Executive

Total remuneration of **£248,491** in 2025-26, including employer pension contributions. That is up 3.2% on 2024-25 (£240,786). The median among the 2 other Welsh councils collected so far is £200,946.

From the accounts: Chief Executive -Paul Orders. 2025/26: salary, fees & allowances 208,116; taxable benefits, compensation and pension strain 0; pension column 40,375; total 248,491. 2024/25: 201,663; 39,123; 240,786. Column headings in the PDF are rotated and could not be read cleanly; the total equals salary plus the pension column. Note (a): the Chief Executive is the Returning Officer and fees for that role are additional to the table. A total excluding pension is not printed as a column.

PDF page 65, Note 8.3

## Employees paid £60,000 or more

953 employees in 2025-26, up 31.4% on 2024-25 (725). 61 were paid £100,000 or more, 16.0 per 100,000 residents. The median among the 3 other Welsh councils collected so far is 8.0 per 100,000.

**Cardiff: employees by pay band, as printed**

| Band                 | 2025-26 | 2024-25 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| £60,000 to £64,999   | 350     | 307     |
| £65,000 to £69,999   | 215     | 118     |
| £70,000 to £74,999   | 103     | 63      |
| £75,000 to £79,999   | 61      | 76      |
| £80,000 to £84,999   | 64      | 53      |
| £85,000 to £89,999   | 48      | 32      |
| £90,000 to £94,999   | 34      | 7       |
| £95,000 to £99,999   | 17      | 24      |
| £100,000 to £104,999 | 19      | 8       |
| £105,000 to £109,999 | 7       | 4       |
| £110,000 to £114,999 | 3       | 5       |
| £115,000 to £119,999 | 3       | 3       |
| £120,000 to £124,999 | 4       | 2       |
| £125,000 to £139,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £125,000 to £129,999 | 2       | 5       |
| £130,000 to £134,999 | 3       | 2       |
| £135,000 to £139,999 | 1       | 3       |
| £140,000 to £144,999 | 3       | 6       |
| £145,000 to £149,999 | 9       | 0       |
| £150,000 to £154,999 | 0       | 2       |
| £150,000 to £164,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £155,000 to £159,999 | 2       | 0       |
| £160,000 to £199,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £165,000 to £169,999 | 0       | 2       |
| £170,000 to £174,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £175,000 to £179,999 | 1       | 0       |
| £180,000 to £184,999 | 1       | 1       |
| £185,000 to £189,999 | 1       | 0       |
| £190,000 to £194,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £195,000 to £199,999 | 1       | 1       |
| £200,000 to £204,999 | 0       | 1       |
| £200,000 to £209,999 | 0       | 0       |
| £205,000 to £209,999 | 1       | 0       |

Includes schools staff. Includes senior officers. From the accounts: Welsh threshold £60,000. Note 8.2: 'the number of employees, whose remuneration is over £60,000 per annum within bands of £5,000 ... including senior officers whose remuneration is disclosed in more detail in note 8.3. It excludes any staff paid via agency.' Includes some severance payments and Returning Officer fees; excludes employer's pension. Separately identifies individuals directly employed by school governing bodies. Non Schools and Teaching columns; totals Non Schools 240 / Teaching 713 (2025/26) and 181 / 544 (2024/25). Runs of all-zero bands collapsed here.

Source: Cardiff, [Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26](#) (draft), PDF pages 63-64, Note 8.2. Read by hand; checked 2026-09-24.

**Councillors' allowances**

£1,951,000 in 2025-26, up 6.1% on 2024-25 (£1,839,000), or £5.11 per resident. The median among the 3 other Welsh councils collected so far is £8.41 per resident.

Cardiff: allowances paid, 2025-26, from its published list

| Paid as                           | Total      |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Basic allowances                  | £1,081,996 |
| Special responsibility allowances | £851,643   |
| Expenses                          | £17,491    |
| All                               | £1,951,130 |

The basic allowance for each councillor is £19,771 a year (2025-26). It is set nationally: £19,771 for 2025-26.

From the accounts: "The total amount of Members' Allowances (including basic and special responsibility) paid in 2025/26 was £1.951 million (£1.839 million in 2024/25)." (PDF page 70, Note 8.5)

Published allowances: [Member Remuneration and Allowances 2025 to 2026](#).

What this data does and doesn't show

- Every figure is as Cardiff printed it, in accounts that have not yet been audited. Counts in the £100,000 figure are our sum of the council's bands.
- Comparisons are with the other Welsh councils read so far; no national figure is published for England.
- Published 2025/26 spreadsheet Total row: Basic Salary 1,081,995.91; Senior Salary - Executive Members 800,806.44; Civic Salary 50,836.50; Travel 145.27; Subsistence 28.00; Reimbursement of care costs 17,317.55; Total 1,951,129.67; Pension Contributions 69,399.72 (not in Total). 'sra' is our sum of the senior and civic salary columns; 'expenses' our sum of travel, subsistence and care. Co-opted members are shown separately (total 22,004.36). Basic rate is the national Welsh basic salary for 2025-26 (£19,771); the spreadsheet shows 19,770.96 paid.

# Sources and licences

Every dataset behind the figures in this document, with its publisher, the date its figures are as of, and the licence they are used under.

| Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Publisher                     | Figures as of              | Licence                                           | Used in                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council Tax levels</b><br><br><a href="https://www.gov.wales/council-tax-levels">https://www.gov.wales/council-tax-levels</a>                                                                                                                                     | Welsh Government              | the 2026–27 financial year | Open Government Licence v3.0                      | Cardiff: your area; Council tax in Cardiff; Where your council tax goes in Cardiff |
| <b>Roads and transport revenue outturn expenditure by authority and service</b><br><br><a href="https://stats.gov.wales/">https://stats.gov.wales/</a>                                                                                                               | Welsh Government (StatsWales) | the 2024–25 financial year | Open Government Licence v3.0                      | Cardiff: your area; Parking income in Cardiff                                      |
| <b>Local authority revenue outturn expenditure and financing (StatsWales)</b><br><br><a href="https://api.stats.gov.wales/v1/b483d2c5-e60e-4dfb-b03a-49df9e1931a0/download/csv">https://api.stats.gov.wales/v1/b483d2c5-e60e-4dfb-b03a-49df9e1931a0/download/csv</a> | Welsh Government              | 16 October 2025            | Open Government Licence v3.0                      | Where your council tax goes in Cardiff                                             |
| <b>legislation.gov.uk and official guidance, provision by provision</b><br><br><a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/</a>                                                                                                         | legislation.gov.uk            | 22 September 2026          | Open Government Licence v3.0 (legislation.gov.uk) | Parking income in Cardiff                                                          |

## How to use and cite this document

Published by [Tekstak Ltd](https://tek-stak.co.uk) (<https://tek-stak.co.uk>). Our words, analysis and charts are licensed under CC BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), credit Tekstak Ltd. Figures from other bodies are used under each source’s own licence, listed in the sources appendix. You may reuse our words and charts with credit.

This site takes no side. Every figure is quoted from the body that publishes it, with its date and source; views are attributed to the people and organisations who hold them. Our neutrality policy: <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/neutrality/>

Generated on 25 September 2026. The live version, which may have newer figures, is at <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-cardiff>.