



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10196

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

10 March, 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10196

I wrote to you on 19 February regarding your request for information. You asked for information relating to grants paid in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 and for any grants already agreed for the financial year 2016-17. Specifically:

1. The name of the organisation receiving the grant.
2. The name of the event to which the grant relates.
3. The amount of grant.
4. A brief explanation of any specific aspects or costs of the event which the grant was designed to support or cover.
5. For each of the above calendar years, the total budget figure for overseeing the Major Events Unit and the specific budget available to fund grants for events.

I can confirm we hold information relating to your request. However, I have concluded the information we hold in relation to questions 1, 2, 4 and part of question 5 are exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information accessible to the applicant by other means. Please use the following to access information relating to organisation and event name - <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/decisions/?lang=en> - on the right hand side of the screen click on the year and month you require then select 'Culture and Sport' For information relating to question 5 please use the following link - <http://gov.wales/funding/budget/?lang=en> and select the appropriate financial year, and then click on 'Main Expenditure Group (MEG) Allocations. The budget for Major Events is then listed.

I have concluded that the information we hold for question 3 is exempt from disclosure under Section 29(1)(b) - economic interests of the Freedom of Information Act. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is given at Annex A to this letter.



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The budget for staffing costs in relation to the Major Events Unit are as follows:
Financial Year (FY) 2013/14 - £605,037 (headcount 13), FY 2014/15 - £500,428
(headcount 10), FY 2015/16 - £503,310 (headcount 9) and FY 2016/17 - £503,610
(headcount 9) (forecast based on current salary level).

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or
FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Decisions relating to non-disclosure have been taken with due consideration of the exemption identified under Section 29(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). This is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption and in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it.

Section 29(1)(b) – Economic Interests

This states:

29 (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –

(b) the financial interests of any administration in the United Kingdom, as defined by section 28(2).

The Welsh Government recognises its responsibility to ensure that it invests wisely on behalf of the people of Wales. Every event seeking funding has to go through a rigorous assessment process. Different events have different levels of economic impact or international profile and funding is therefore dependant on this and other factors such as delivery of impacts for example volunteers, training and other skills which, in turn help to create an environment which stimulates and assists new enterprise and growth.

I believe that releasing the funding amount would be likely to create a level of expectation by other event organisers in believing that they would be entitled to an equal or similar amount of funding. This would be likely to prejudice any future negotiations between the Welsh Government and other event organisers as each event is different and each application is based on merit. I believe this, in turn, would be likely to prejudice the financial interests of the Welsh Government as it would prejudice our negotiating position and our efforts to ensure best value for the Welsh pound.

Whilst I accept that, as a public body, the public will always have an interest in the work of the Welsh Government and that release of this information would engender our willingness to be open and transparent in the way that we work, I do not believe there is any pressing public interest in the release of this information. Information on how events are assessed for support including details of criteria / MEU strategy is widely available. It is not in the public's interest to release the specific details of one event's funding as this would be detrimental to ongoing relationships / negotiations regarding attracting events to Wales which have strong economic and social benefits. I do not believe it is in the wider public interest to prejudice the financial interests of the Welsh Government and our efforts to obtain value for money in future negotiations using the public purse.

I am satisfied, therefore, that releasing the information would be likely to prejudice financial interests as defined by this exemption.

In conclusion, I believe that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding this information.