



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 10173

14 March 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10173: Inland fisheries stakeholder engagement between Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales

As promised, here is my formal response, answering the points you raise in the same order as you numbered them in your email of 7 March 2016.

I have taken this opportunity to look again at the information we hold and I am providing a revised disclosure. After taking advice from colleagues this has been re numbered, putting the information into chronological order and, where appropriate keeping email chains together. This means the numbering is smaller and the order does not tie in.

In addition, I do not hold a copy of the minutes of the meeting between Welsh Government and NRW in April 14 and Feb 15.

1. With respect to my wording “the information I have decided to release” I apologise for my wording but it was used as a “turn of phrase” rather than any attempt to omit info caught by the request from disclosure. The only information we have withheld is the names of officials, under the s40 (2) “personal data” exemption (see also point 3) Information contained within the emails ands minutes, etc. that related to other matters were not caught by your request so are not included.

2. In relation to whether this is the full extent of engagement between Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), please note that these are the records we have available and it should be noted that there was a hiatus whilst NRW have worked on their “Agenda for Change” stakeholder engagement arrangements. It is worth noting that at a recent meeting between Welsh Government fisheries officials and NRW fisheries staff on 3 March 2016, NRW informed us that that an implementation plan for Agenda for Change is being worked on by NRW, and delays have occurred in this work stream because of resource issues within NRW. You may wish to consider approaching them directly on this matter to obtain the latest information relating to the implementation of “Agenda for change “.

3. You correctly point out the management of fisheries would be “environmental information”. However, the information sought was not about the management of fisheries

per se, but rather how Welsh Government and NRW are to engage with stakeholders. We believe that this is a step sufficiently far away from “environmental information” that the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) do not apply. Therefore, in this instance we concluded that it was most appropriate to use the s40 (2) exemption of the FoI Act . However, the EIRs, provides for a similar exemption , should it be concluded the information does indeed constitute “environmental information”. I trust that clarifies the rationale behind using the FOI Act.

4. You are correct in that the s40 (2), or Reg 13(1) of the EIRs should the info be considered environmental information, can only apply to personal data. We have reviewed and corrected the released information.

Yours sincerely