

16 March 2016

Dear

Freedom of Information Request ID 10184 - Reach the Heights

Thank you for your request, which was received on 10th February 2016 with regard to funding information relating to Reach the Heights.

You asked for:

- The amount of the underspend on the Reach the Heights initiative that came from European Structural Fund (ESF) money; and,
- The amount of that underspend that was returned to the European Commission.

Please see below the information held by the Welsh Government for your request:

- The Reach the Heights initiative was originally approved for £48.9m including £26.9m of ESF in 2009. Following a pause and review of the initiative, it was re-approved at £35.8m including £19.6m ESF in 2011.
- The final expenditure for the initiative which completed in 2013 was £29.2 including £16.2m ESF funding.
- The expenditure of £16.2m of ESF money is £10.7m less than the originally approved amount.
- None of the underspend was returned to the Commission. At each stage where ESF funding was reduced for the Reach the Heights initiative, it was reinvested by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) to support the delivery of other schemes helping young people with their skills for further learning and development.

Apologies for the delay in responding to your request. I hope you find the information helpful.

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 Email: 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