



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10238

16 March 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10238

We wrote to you on 3 March regarding your request for information about grants to businesses in Wales. You clarified that you are requesting the following information:

1. Details on all grants and loans offered to companies in North Wales (postcode areas LL and CH) by business and value for the financial years 2013 and 2014.
2. Details on all grants and loans paid to companies in North Wales (postcode areas LL and CH) by business and value for the financial years 2013 and 2014.
3. The percentage of those grants relative to the rest of Wales.
4. Any information held on regional variations, for example different forms or amounts of funding being applied for, or whether there have been any noticeable changes over time.
5. Numbers of applications made in North Wales and all of Wales.

I can confirm that we hold information relating to your request. However, I have concluded that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to



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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.

consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

The information requested is very broad and is not held centrally and would therefore take considerable time to locate and retrieve. It would require going out to every person responsible for a grant and loan scheme and requesting them to conduct a search to look for information that may or may not be relevant to your request. With over 370 grant schemes offering grants every year, this would be a considerable task to undertake. Whilst not all grant schemes provide grants to the private sector, we would still need each grant or loan team to search their records to determine if any applications had been received from businesses.

The years requested are historical, and therefore the production of the data would take a least half a day per scheme depending on the size of the scheme. For some schemes it would be considerably longer. This data would then need to be reported back centrally before analysis on grants offered by postcode area could commence. Due to the very large number of offers of grants being made every year (approximately 18,000) this would take at least half a day to complete.

This analysis process would then have to be repeated for grants and loans paid, before any consideration could be undertaken for the remaining parts of your request.

Even at a conservative estimate the time and resources it will take to locate, retrieve and extract the information will significantly exceed 24 hours. Because this exceeds appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

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