

29/03/2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10242: The involvement of senior politicians in freedom of information requests.

Thank you for your request which I received on February 28. You asked for:

- Details of all FOI requests signed off or seen by the First Minister and other Cabinet Ministers between 1st June and 1st September 2015.
- This means the details of the requests itself, which Minister saw it and the outcome (but not the requester's name).
- Any guidance or documents relating to which requests are seen by senior politicians.

Firstly, I can confirm that the First Minister and/or other Cabinet Ministers do not 'sign off' freedom of information requests within the Welsh Government; the process and ultimate decision is carried out at official level. In relation to the third bullet point above, the default position is that Ministers are sighted on all responses before they issue. However, there are occasions (e.g. when the requests are regarded as 'routine' or there are deadline issues) where they may not be. There is no formal guidance regarding this.

In relation to your first two bullet points, the information you have requested is attached at Annex 1.

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,