

29/03/2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10281: Freedom of information responses.

Thank you for your request which I received on March 3. You asked for:

- How many times have Ministers, including the First Minister, overruled decisions of the Information Commissioner and Information Tribunal with regards to refusing to provide information via the FOI Act? Please give details of which Ministers and what was the topic.
- How many times have Ministers vetoed the publication of an FOI response? Please give details of which Ministers and what the was the topic.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government does not hold any recorded information of this description.

In relation to your first question, the exception by which Ministers can override decisions of the Information Commissioner and Information Tribunal is contained in section 53(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the Welsh Government has never utilised this provision.

Regarding your second question, the publication of responses to requests for information is carried out at official level. I can confirm that Welsh Ministers have never vetoed the publication of any freedom of information response.

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,