

From:
Sent: 01 February 2016 13:00
To:
Subject:

Dear

ATISN 10096 – Companies who received funding who went out of business 12 months after the funding after the grants were given

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 January. Your request covers the following questions:

- To ask Welsh Government to list the companies given grants by Welsh Government who went out of business in the 12 months after the grants were given.
- Please give the list of companies and amounts granted for the following years: 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- Please also list the companies who paid any or all of the grant money back.

Clarification was sought on whether you were looking for grants wider than EST and you confirmed you wanted information for any grants to commercial businesses.

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested it would require the following:

While it is part of our standard terms and conditions of grant that the funded body should notify us if they cease, or threaten to cease trading or go into administration or receivership, this information is not collected centrally so we are unable to answer your first and third questions?

In relation to your second question of providing a list of companies and amounts granted for different financial years, the easiest way we would be able to provide this information is to identify every individual grant payment paid to each company. We would need to extract this information from our central finance system and as an example for the 2014/15 financial year this is likely to be in the region of 12,500 payments to over 3,000 individual companies (this would exclude agricultural grants farming businesses). We would then need to analyse the data for each payment and collate the information back to each company. Based on an assessment of the work we would need to undertake, we estimate this analysis would take on average 3 minutes per company which gives a total of 150 hours. We would need to do

this for each financial year you have requested. Given the amount of data that would need to be analysed this work is likely to take a considerable amount of time and take days to complete.

Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new 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 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