



Our Ref: ATISN 10384

18 May 2016

Dear ,

**ATISN 10384 – Health and Social Services grant funding process**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which I received on 19th April. You asked:

For Health and Social Services grant funding, for the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

1. If it is the Welsh Government's policy to hold an open and transparent tendering process in every case.
2. Have there been any exemptions to the tendering process and if so, details of the statutes that permit those exemptions.
3. In instances where the tendering process was not followed, provide;
  - the name of the grant beneficiary
  - the purpose for which the grant was awarded
  - the amount of the grant
  - the names and positions of the lead officials involved
4. In instances where the tendering process was not followed, provide the reasons for this and whether consideration was given to value for money.

We have taken your request to mean any grant awarded by the Health and Social Services Department to any external body or individual, but not including the annual budget allocations to Health Boards and Trusts. Please note, the Welsh Government does not hold details for the financial year 2016/2017, consequently, we have provided details for the last 2 complete financial years.

The Welsh Government does hold some of the information you have requested. In response to points 1 and 4, any grant awarded by the Health and Social Services Department is subject to strict rules. The Welsh Government's Grants Centre of Excellence has produced guidance on the minimum standards for grant funding. The guidance sets out a number of

Standards which departments are expected to adhere to when considering decisions about grant funding. I have attached the link to the full guidance for your information.

<http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/publications/160324-minimum-standards-en.pdf>

In response to points 2 and 3, the Welsh Government does not hold information to this effect. Following consultation across the department, we are not aware of any grants awarded that have not followed the Grants Centre of Excellence process.

In the majority of cases the Standards are followed, however, there may be justifiable reasons why at times it is not possible, or advisable, for a funding programme to be fully compliant with the Standards. For example, the NHS Health Board revenue allocation is technically classified as a non-hypothecated grant and as the statutory basis for the funding is covered by the NHS Wales Act 2006, the Grants Centre of Excellence guidance is not adhered to.

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](mailto: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,