



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10417

27 May 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – reference ATISN 10417

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 May. You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000):

The following information relating to the funding awarded by the Welsh Government to the WLGA in relation to the autism action plan for Wales, since its launch in 2008.

- 1. The total amount received by the WLGA on an annual basis.*
- 2. The names of all posts funded by these grants, including the salary and all related costs of each post.*
- 3. All Welsh Government records (ie contracts, letters, emails) where discussion has taken place concerning continued grant funding to the WLGA to coordinate the delivery of the refreshed autism action plan announced in 2015-16.*
- 4. A description of the tendering process involved which gave other interested parties the opportunity to submit a bid to deliver these activities from 2015-16.*

The Welsh Government holds some information you have requested for the years 20011-16, which has been provided below. For the remainder of your request 2008-2011, it is estimated 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 consider your request and in this circumstance the regulations allow us to refuse to deal with it. The appropriate limit



specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, we are 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. In this instance, we consider this to be the case and consequently we will not proceed with this element of your request. The reasons for using the Section 12 exemption are set out below.

In conducting just a preliminary search of our electronic records, I have identified a hard copy file list, containing 43 files from 2008-11, which contain reference to autism; autistic; special needs; learning difficulties; WLGA; Welsh Local Government Association. On average each file contains 100 pages. Allowing 1 minute per page, this would amount to 4300 minutes or 71.6 hours. This is without investigating our electronic records.

In the circumstances, we will not take any additional action in relation to this element of your request and any further request for information received from you will be logged and handled as a new request. If you decide to submit a new request, we would suggest that you consider how it might be possible to bring it below the appropriate limit. One option might be to focus your request on a more specific time scale for the information you are looking for.

1. The total amount received by the WLGA on an annual basis.

The funding the WLGA received from the Welsh Government from 2011 -2016 was as follows.

2011-12: £80,000
2012-13: £81,202
2013-14: £79,277
2014-15: £101,038
2015-16: £383,000

2. The names of all posts funded by these grants, including the salary and all related costs of each post.

Between 2011- 14 we supported the Autistic Spectrum Disorder(ASD) National Co-ordinator and administrative support.

The information available on posts and salaries is as follows.

2011-12 – £80,000 to meet the cost of a full-time WLGA project manager to develop and run an ASD LIN; develop and embed a new ASD e-learning resource; to provide support for cross regional work.

2012-13 - £94,000

Salary	£49,916
WLGA recharge	£16,950
Travel and subsistence	£8,000

Review of local arrangements	£10,000
Awareness raising/publicity	£4,000
ASD LINs	£2,634
ASD Aware Scheme	£2,500
Total	£94,000

2013-14 - £87,365

Salary	£50,415
WLGA recharge	£16,950
Travel and subsistence	£8,000
Total Establishment Cost	£75,365
ASD LIN/E.Resource/AWARE Scheme	£12,000
Total	£87,365

2014-15 - £107,866

Salary and on-costs	£94,866
ASD E-Resource	£9,500
ASD LIN	£3,500
TOTAL	£107,866

2015-16 - £294,000

An ASD National Advisor and Project Officer (co-hosted by the WLGA and Public Health Wales)	£126,500
The development of awareness raising and training packages	£99,000
An ASD Development Research Officer (hosted by the WLGA)	£50,000
Scoping work for an ASD integrated service.	£10,000
E-resource	£5,000
Learning and Improvement Network	£3,500
Total	£294,000

2015-16 –additional grant - £89,000

Funding to support further design and delivery of ASD services to address unmet needs.

3. Welsh Government records (ie contracts, letters, emails) where discussion has taken place concerning continued grant funding to the WLGA to coordinate the delivery of the refreshed autism action plan announced in 2015-16.

The information, comprising the relevant Ministerial advice and a transcript of emails between the Minister's private office and officials is enclosed at Annex 1. The information which is out

of the scope of the request has been redacted. Some names have also been redacted under Section 40(2), (third party personal data) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 – an explanation for the use of Section 40 is supplied at Annex 2.

4. A description of the tendering process involved which gave other interested parties the opportunity to submit a bid to deliver these activities from 2015-16.

The Welsh Local Government Association has been awarded funding to establish a national service on autism. This is in-line with the approach being taken forward in relation to other national services as the WLGA is uniquely positioned to ensure effective engagement and delivery across local government. Whilst the Welsh Government did not undertake a tendering process, the WLGA is able to tender some of the activities where appropriate.

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. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above. 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

Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely