



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

23 June 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10491 Welsh Government Spend on proposals for council mergers under the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your request which I received on 6 June about Welsh Government spend on proposals for council mergers under the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.

The information you requested is enclosed.

All administration costs, including staff costs and internal legal advice, associated with the proposals for council mergers, the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 and the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill are met from within the Welsh Government's delegated running costs and are not separately identifiable.

External legal advice was received at the cost of £588.

In addition, in relation to the cost of the consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, two engagement events with Town and Community Councils were held. The total cost of these was £2,601.35.

In partnership with the Welsh Government, Grant Thornton UK LLP hosted two workshops to consider the costs and benefits that could arise from local government reform. The workshops considered the constitutional, democratic, performance framework and wider elements of the reform programme as well as mergers. The total cost of these events and the resulting report was £11,550.

The total cost of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery ("the Williams Commission") was published on 13 February 2015 (reference: ATISN 9150), and can be accessed via the Welsh Government's website at [Welsh Government | The cost of the](#)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NQ / Parc Cathays, Caerdydd. CF10 3NQ

[Williams Commission](#) . The remit of the Commission covered all the devolved public services in Wales. The costs incurred by the Commission related specifically to their recommendations for local authority mergers cannot be separately identified.

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

Local Government Democracy Division