



5 July 2016

Dear

ATISN 10496

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 June. You asked for details about Structural Funding since 2000, including:

- Key Performance Indicators used to measure the performance of every completed EU-funded project at its outset since 2000;
- Whether each project met its original target;
- If targets were not met, what was achieved;
- How much EU money and Welsh Government money was spent on each project;
- Whether there was an underspend or overspend on each project;
- The amount of EU money (if any) returned to WEFO at the end of each project.

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 searches of both electronic and paper files held by WEFO relating to over 3,500 projects dating back to 2000. Based on an average paper file search of 35 minutes, I have calculated that it would take around 1,886 hours to fulfil your request for project information relating to the 2000-2006 programmes. In addition, based on an average electronic file search of 21 minutes, it would take an additional 101 hours to search, locate, retrieve and extract the information from electronic files relating to projects funded via the 2007-2013 programmes.



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The paper file search estimate of 35 minutes is based on sample exercises conducted to locate and retrieve the requested information from the paper files and then extract and type up this information in to a new document. For example, a total of 3,234 projects were awarded EU funding in the 2000-2006 programmes with each project having up to 20 paper files with the information you requested being spread over several of these files. To retrieve and extract the information you requested would involve locating the archived file numbers; submitting requests to retrieve the archived files from storage; searching the files to determine if the information is held and then extracting and typing up the information in to a new document. Assuming two paper files are reviewed for each project and it takes approximately five minutes to locate and retrieve the two project files, 18 minutes to review the two files and a further 12 minutes to extract and type up the information in to a new document, this equates to approximately 35 minutes per project. Using this methodology this would equate to around 1,886 hours to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information. It should also be noted that more than two files will need to be located and reviewed for some of these projects which would incur additional time and cost resources than the estimates outlined above.

The electronic file search estimate of 21 minutes is based on sample exercises conducted to locate and retrieve the requested information from the electronic files and then extract this information in to a new document. For example, a total of 290 projects were awarded EU Structural Funds in the 2007-2013 programmes. Assuming it takes approximately one minute to locate each project file, 14 minutes to review each project file and a further six minutes to copy and extract this information in to a new document, this equates to approximately 21 minutes per project. Using this methodology, this would equate to around 101 hours to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information.

Based on the above calculations, I have therefore decided not to take forward your request.

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.

In addition, it is also worth noting that all EU funded projects are required by WEFO to set out output targets and expenditure profiles as part of their condition of funding. Targets for each project contribute to the targets agreed with European Commission at the outset of each seven-year programme period, which are detailed in published Operational Programmes; for example, we are on course to exceed our key indicators for 2007-2013 programmes.

The circumstances of individual projects can change due to a range of external and internal factors, such as economic and labour market conditions, findings of independent project evaluations and programme evaluations, tendering and delivery arrangements, infrastructure developments, and compliance issues. Projects are closely monitored and re-evaluated by WEFO during their delivery and funding is allocated across the programmes as necessary so that the full and best use of the potential funding available is made and to ensure we achieve our overall programme

performance targets agreed with the European Commission. The monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes is an ongoing process, and where appropriate, EU funds have been recycled to other projects and other priorities of the programmes.

For the 2007–2013 programmes, final project achievements against agreed output targets have been published on the Welsh Government website for a number of projects. This information can be accessed via the approved projects database 2007-2013: <http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/searchprojects/?lang=en>. The output achievements for the remaining 2007-2013 projects will be published on the EU funding section of the Welsh Government website as closure arrangements for projects and the programmes continue.

Output target data provided by projects also complements other monitoring and evaluation measures, including mid-year and final evaluations of projects, which are regularly published on the EU funding pages section of the Welsh Government website. A number of independent evaluation reports for individual projects from the 2007-2013 programmes can be accessed via the following web link: <http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/project-evaluations/?lang=en>.

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