



5 July 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10497

Thank you for your request which I received on 8 June. You asked for:

- How many projects, schemes, initiatives or infrastructure developments have received funding from the European Union since 2000

You also requested the following information about each EU funded project – it's name, location, overall aims or objectives and how much funding it received from the EU and the Welsh Government.

Since 2000, around 3,600 projects / schemes have been awarded EU funding through the Welsh Government.

Most of the information you requested about projects / schemes benefiting from EU funds is already available in the public domain via the EU funding pages of the Welsh Government website.

Information available on the Welsh Government website includes details of each EU funded project including lead sponsor, geographical coverage, EU funding award and project aims and objectives. This information can be accessed via the below web links:

2014-2020 Structural Funds programmes

Approved projects for the 2014-2020 Structural Funds programmes:

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-approved-projects.pdf>

2007-2013 Structural Funds programme

Approved projects database for the 2007-2013 Structural Funds programmes:

<http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/searchprojects/?lang=en>.



Swyddfa Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Office
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2000-2006 programmes (including Structural Funds, EAGGF and FIFG)*

Approved projects for the 2000-2006 programmes:

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/150407wefo-all-en.pdf>

* Please note that the 2000-2006 approved projects list provides information on projects supported by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) as these funds were managed by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) at that time.

Some of the information you requested about details of EU funds received by each project is also available in the public domain via the EU funding pages of the Welsh Government website. Information available includes details of EU funds received by each project during the 2000-2006 programmes (except for the EQUAL programme as this was a UK-led programme). This information can be accessed through the Final Implementation Reports, available via the below web links:

Objective 1 EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-west-objective1.pdf>

Objective 2/2T EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-east-objective2.pdf>

Objective 3 EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-east-objective3.pdf>

INTERREG EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-interreg-annexes.pdf>

URBAN EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-urban-annexes.pdf>

LEADER+ EU funded projects

<http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/160330-leader-programme.pdf>

Annex 3 of these Final Implementation Reports includes comprehensive financial tables including a breakdown of EU funds received and public / private funding contributions. Each project can be identified by its unique Project ID Reference number, which can be used to cross reference and search for further project information via the 2000-2006 approved projects list on the Welsh Government website. Annex 6 of these reports (Annex 5 for the Objective 3 report) also includes the approved projects list for each EU funding programme, which can also be used to cross reference and search for further project information. For example, you can search by Project ID Reference number, project title or beneficiary name.

EU funds received by each project supported by the 2000-2006 EQUAL programme and 2007-2013 European Structural Fund programmes are provided at Doc 1 and 2. Please note that the projects listed in Doc 2 can be cross referenced to the 2007-2013 approved projects database, all of which are available on the Welsh Government website. For example, you can search for each project using the

project name or specific EU funding programme (e.g. Convergence ERDF) to access the details of each individual project including its aims and geographical coverage.

Details of EU funded projects 2007-2013 which have also received match funding by the Welsh Government are provided at Doc 3. Again, this document can be cross referenced to the 2007-2013 approved projects database, which is available on the Welsh Government website via the web links provided above.

Information on EU funds and match funding received by the 2007-2013 Rural Development Plan and European Fisheries Fund schemes are attached at Doc 4. Further information relating to these schemes is also available on the Welsh Government website as follows:

2007-2013 Rural Development plan

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/ruraldevelopmentplan4wales2007/?lang=en>

2007-2013 European Fisheries Fund

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/marine-fisheries-policy/common-fisheries-policy/european-fund-for-fisheries/?lang=en>

You also requested details of EU funded projects 2000-2006 which have received match funding from the Welsh Government. 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 provide this information. 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 would require searches of paper files held by WEFO relating to around 1,700 projects. Based on an average paper file search of 11 minutes, it would take approximately 309 hours to search, locate, retrieve and extract the information from paper based files relating to projects funded via the 2000-2006 programmes.

The paper file search estimate of 11 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, each project will have up to five payment 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 for the requested information 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, five minutes to review the two files and a further one minute to extract and type up the information in to a new document, this equates to approximately 11 minutes per project. Using this methodology this would equate to around 309 hours to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information.

Based on the above calculations, I have therefore decided not to provide this element of the information you requested.

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