



9 August 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10565

I wrote to you on 15 July regarding your request for information. You asked how much was spent maintaining and securing buildings (including utility costs) owned by the Welsh Government but not in use, for (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) 2015-16?

I have undertaken an initial search for the information you want but have reached the conclusion 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. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am 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.

Your request will involve teams across several departments undertaking searches including the Transport Division, Property Infrastructure Division and Cadw (Historic Division). An initial scoping exercise of the Financial database has identified 400 entries where expenditure was incurred on property for 2015/16. Each of these entries have to be consulted manually to identify which sites include buildings that are not in use and then identify which parts of expenditure relates just to the buildings not in use. This exercise will then have to be repeated for each of the 3 financial years in question. The time it will take to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested therefore for Property Infrastructure Division alone will be substantial. (The additional time to undertake searches for the other divisions will also be taken into consideration)

Even at a conservative estimate the time and resources it will take to locate, retrieve and extract the information will exceed 24 hrs. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit



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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.

established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process 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. For example, you may wish us to search for information relating to a certain building or buildings during the financial year 2014/15. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible.

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 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