



25 August 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10619

I wrote to you on 5 August regarding your request for information. You asked for –

1. Any correspondence sent to, sent from, or sent on behalf of Carwyn Jones AM, Jane Hutt AM and Edwina Hart AM regarding the Powys Fadog project / River Lodge site in Llangollen, in their Ministerial capacity, between 25 January 2010 and 31 October 2010).
2. Records of any telephone conversations with Carwyn Jones AM, Jane Hutt AM and Edwina Hart AM, in their Ministerial capacity, regarding the Powys Fadog project / River Lodge site, including discussions on internal processes, audits and FOI requests between 1 March 2010 and 29 July 2013.
3. Records, notes and minutes of any meetings attended by Carwyn Jones AM, Jane Hutt AM and Edwina Hart AM, in their Ministerial capacity, or their representative, regarding the Powys Fadog project / River Lodge site in Llangollen between 25 January 2010 and 31 October 2010).

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.



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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.

As explained in my letter of 5 August, the broad phrasing of your requests, where you cite 'any correspondence', 'any telephone conversations' and 'records, notes and minutes of any meetings' makes the search very difficult. In addition, asking for such information 'on behalf of' those Ministers, or 'by their representative', also makes your requests very broad as such information in particular could be filed in any of several locations.

The position remains that there has been an exceptionally high volume and frequency of correspondence regarding the River Lodge project and it would require several officials in different divisions to search records which cover different filing systems for the narrowed time frame you have requested, as well as within records relevant to the Ministerial portfolios which were in office at the relevant time. An electronic search for the information within the parameters you have given will return many records, most of which will not be relevant to your request, if at all. Furthermore, certain records would not be held on our computer systems, necessitating a search through archived records involving manually sifting through potentially hundreds of paper files

Information captured by your request may potentially be captured within four storage areas: on our current comprehensive electronic record management system (iShare) – which incorporated our old paper record-keeping system; on shared drives; our Email Vault and in MS Outlook folders. It would be necessary to search all four of these storage areas to ascertain if we hold information relevant to your request.

A general iShare search, which came into being in 2011, using the search term 'River Lodge', yielded over 5000 results and there will be several hundred additional items of correspondence which pre-date this system.

In addition to the above, it would also be necessary to search existing e-mail accounts within the Private Offices of the relevant Ministers.

Lastly, it would be necessary to search for information held in hard copy registered files created by those policy officials for information we may still hold which pre-dates iShare. There are at least 3 archive box files, containing about 30 hard copy folders between them, which would need to be searched. I estimate that it would take at least one hour to go through each file to determine whether or not they contain information you have requested, meaning it would take about 30 hours to search through those folders alone.

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 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 consider submitting a revised request for more specific information, such as the examples highlighted in my previous letter to you. An example would be the evidence you have previously provided and the further evidence referred to in your latest request (i.e. regarding an e-mail between two individuals which mentions the Minister's requests and a wish to provide the Minister with a briefing). This will be treated as a new request.

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