



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

21 September 2016

Dear ,

**ATISN 10712**

Thank you for your request which I received on the 23 August. You asked:

Why I, as a Manager of RIFW, was answering your previous Freedom of Information questions

You also asked how many documents could be found within the four definitions of information below;

- (i) Emails sent by Ceri Breeze i.e. as the “originator” or “sender” to Huw Lewis (to him personally or to him as Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage)
- (ii) Emails sent by Ceri Breeze where Huw Lewis or the Private Secretary for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage” is a cc recipient.
- (iii) Emails sent to Ceri Breeze by Huw Lewis personally or as Minister i.e. where he is the originator/sender. This includes emails sent from the Private Secretary email address.
- (iv) Emails sent by Huw Lewis / Minister / Private Secretary Minister to third parties where Ceri Breeze is also copied in. These would include new emails generated by the Minister or his Private Office but also emails where the Minister/Private Office responds to an email sent to him by a third party - as the Minister would be the originator of the responding email.

Additionally you asked;

“Please can I see the e-mails in the first category (Emails sent by Ceri Breeze i.e. as the ‘originator’ or ‘sender’ to Huw Lewis, [to him personally or to him as Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage]). Also e-mails sent by Huw Lewis as Housing Minister to Ceri Breeze as Deputy Director of Housing on the dates between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 and also those between Ceri Breeze and Huw Lewis in the whole month of January 2012. I am not interested in any copies to other people. I simply want e-mail correspondence between them.”

In response to your first query, I would refer to the answer I gave you in my e-mail to you of the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

In response to your second query the total numbers are as follows;

- (i) 440 records
- (ii) and (iii) – in excess of 5,000 records
- (iii) 2,212 records

You will note the information above includes a combined figure for categories “(ii)” and “(iii)”. This stems from the way in which our electronic records management system has been searched. The search for categories “(ii)” and “(iii)”, which are not mutually exclusive, needed to cover all emails which included the term “Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage” in order to identify all documents which could be relevant to your request.

In responding to your third enquiry I have understood your request to cover categories “(i)”, “(ii)” and “(iii)” i.e. all correspondence between Huw Lewis and Ceri Breeze, in the periods mentioned originated by either party, including e-mails directed through or emanating from the Private Office of the Minister on his behalf. This reflects standard business procedures.

From my 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 this element of 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 assessing the time it would take to respond to your request, searches of our electronic records management system were undertaken. To ensure all documents which could be relevant to your request were identified, the searches were based on the originator of the email and key words from the categories above. As set out above, the searches of these three categories identified in excess of 5,440 documents on the system which could be relevant to your request. While your request was limited to defined periods, the large number of documents stems from the fact that your request covered any subject.

The total time estimate for the above i.e. to search and extract the information to meet the request is approximately 68 hours, which exceeds the time limit.

In considering your request, we have had to consider the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of your request as one request. I appreciate that in making your request you would not be familiar with the way in which documents need to be searched in order to respond to the request. Therefore, it may be helpful for you to know that if your request was limited to category “(I)” alone, we will be able to provide you with the relevant documents. Should you wish to refine your request in this way, it 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 Email: [FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference numbers 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