



26 September 2016

Dear ,

### Request for Information – ATISN 10706

I wrote to you on 6 September regarding your request for information. You asked for all correspondence between Mr Michael Carrick (of the Circuit of Wales project) and the Welsh Government since January 1 2016.

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.

As explained in my letter of 6 September, the broad phrasing of your request, where you cite 'any correspondence', makes the search very difficult and very time consuming to deal with.

The position remains that there has been an exceptionally high volume and frequency of correspondence regarding the Circuit of Wales project. 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.

An initial scoping exercise was undertaken by a member of staff on our Welsh Government database, *iShare*. This is the corporate repository for the majority of information created and received by Welsh Government Officials in the course of their duties that must be retained for business or historical purposes. A simple search on *iShare* using the words "Michael Carrick" identified over 5000 documents and not all

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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.

documents relating to your request will be called that therefore other searches would be required. At an estimate of taking 30 seconds to investigate each document to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it would take far in excess of 24 hrs for this exercise alone. (Additional time to undertake other *iShare* searches including email correspondence for relevant staff members will also be taken into consideration.) 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 refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. For example, you may wish us to search for information relating to a certain aspect of the project. 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](mailto: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