



Ein cyf/our ref ATISN 10620

27 September 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10620

I wrote to you on 1 August regarding your request for information. You asked for a copy of the following documents (or documents concerning the subject matter) relating to the timing of the decision not to bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games:

1. the timing of the decision not to bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games
2. requests or enquiries made with local authorities for financial contributions to be made to the Commonwealth Games 2026
3. requests for financial support from the UK Government for the Commonwealth Games 2026
4. the notification of Sports Wales and Commonwealth Games that Wales would not be bidding
5. any feasibility work undertaken on the Commonwealth Games

I can confirm we hold some information relating to your request. The Cabinet took the decision not to bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games on 12th July 2016. No formal requests or enquiries have been made to local authorities for financial contributions to the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Representatives from the local authorities have, however, been party to wider discussions as part of the Commonwealth Games stakeholder engagement which have covered questions of potential financial contributions. I have enclosed correspondence between the First Minister and Secretary of State for Wales asking for a meeting between officials to discuss possible financial support from the UK Government for the Commonwealth Games 2026. Sports Wales and the Commonwealth Games Federation were informed, via e mail on 26 July, 2016 at the same time as members of the Commonwealth Games steering group.



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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.

I have concluded that the information held by Welsh Government in relation to question 5 of your request is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act - cost of compliance will exceed the appropriate limit.

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.

This work goes back to 2011 and will include draft documents, technical papers, calculation spreadsheets, discussion thoughts, e-mail chains involving numerous teams across several departments, as well as Cabinet papers, annexes, summaries for meetings, power-point presentations, draft and superseded documents regarding ideas for next steps, investigations and specifications, bid information and invoices from work undertaken over the years.

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 "Commonwealth Games" identified over 2,500 documents and not all documents relating to your request will be called that therefore other searches would be required involving several members of staff across several different departments. At an estimate of taking one minute to read each document to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it would take over 40hrs for this exercise alone. (Additional time to undertake other *iShare* searches including email correspondence for various staff members 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 far 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 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 venue or sport. 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.

You may be interested in the published Summary of Wales 2026 Commonwealth Games feasibility study which considers the potential advantages, benefits, risks, challenges and costs associated with a bid -

<http://gov.wales/topics/cultureandsport/sportandactiver recreation/summary-commonwealth-games-feasibility-study/?lang=en>

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