



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/our ref ATISN 10714

28 September 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10714

I wrote to you on 5 September regarding your request for information and asking you to narrow your request as responding was likely to exceed the appropriate limit. You asked for, all Welsh Government correspondence in the previous two years regarding the Hoover factory site in Merthyr Tydfil.

I have received no response from you, therefore I have concluded that the information held by the Welsh Government in relation to 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.

You have asked for all correspondence from 31 August 2014 – 31 August 2016. 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



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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.

iShare using the words “Hoover” identified over 3,500 results 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 is captured by your request and then to extract it would considerably exceed the appropriate limit. Additional time to undertake other searches including hard copy files and 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.

As recommended in my letter of 5 September, you may therefore wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, specific departments and/or reducing the time frame over which you would like the information. If you do refine your request in this way, 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