



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10565

6 September 2016

Dear ,

Complaint in respect of Request for Information – reference ATISN 10565

I wrote to you on 12 August regarding your request for an internal review. I have conducted an internal review in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request, or via the internet.

I note in your original request you asked how much was spent maintaining and securing buildings (including utility costs) owned by the Welsh Government but not in use, for (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) 2015-16. In our response dated 9 August, we replied that 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.

I have reviewed your request and have concluded that the original response provided was indeed correct.

The request for information captures the entire Welsh Governments estate and property portfolio including buildings held by the Transport Division, Property Infrastructure Division and Cadw (Historic Division). I have interpreted the question to cover buildings only and "not in use" to mean vacant for the whole year and not part occupied.

An initial scoping exercise of the Property Infrastructure Division's financial database established 400 entries where expenditure was incurred on property for 2015/16. Given the way information is stored (in our financial and property databases) the task requires an average of 1.5 minutes per data entry to manually check each site to determine whether buildings are included and if so, which buildings are not in use (as defined



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

E&I FOI Team
Welsh Government
Treforest - QED Centre
Main Avenue
Treforest Industrial Estate
Ponty pridd
CF37 5YR

EconomyandInfrastructureFOI@wales.gov.uk
i.gov.uk
www.gov.wales

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.

above) and then identify which parts of expenditure relates just to “buildings not in use” as opposed to sites not in use. This exercise needs to be repeated for each of the 3 financial years in question as we can’t assume the same buildings would be “not in use” using the definition above during 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The estimated time to complete the request for the Property Infrastructure Division’s assets for 2015/16 alone would be 10 hours. (400 entries x 1.5 mins = 10 hours) The time it would take to undertake the same exercise for 2013-14 and 2014-15 would be roughly the same for each year. In total the time it would take for Property Infrastructure Division alone would be 30 hours.

The additional time for the other departments across the Government’s estates to make relevant searches would mean that the time it would take to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested would significantly exceed the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The complaint is therefore not upheld.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ

Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)
Email: ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Rhodri Griffiths
Deputy Director, Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships