



Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 10930

13 December 2016

Dear

ATISN 10930 BBC reports that Welsh Councils have spent £56m on consultants following advice from Welsh Local Government Association

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 November. You asked for:

- 1) the total amount of grants and any other award issued on an annual basis to the WLGA by the Welsh Government since 2011;
- 2) the breakdown of each grant in relation to the activities to be carried out;
- 3) in each award whether the WLGA was the sole provider assessed by the Welsh Government;
- 4) Minutes from meetings held between the WLGA and Welsh Government (including between officials and WLGA and also where Ministers have met with the WLGA) since April 2011 specifically relating to awards of public funding to the WLGA.

From my preliminary 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 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 order to determine if we hold the information you have requested I would need to interrogate several electronic record systems.

Points 1 to 3

The Welsh Government's finance system does not hold the specific information you have requested in a form which would allow this to be retrieved directly. An initial search of this system returned 285 payment records relating to grant schemes. To collate the information requested, officials would have to review each record to determine if any included information in line with your request then locate and extract the information the record referred to. I estimate it would take an average of approximately 10 minutes to review, locate, retrieve and extract information for each



item. In total, the length of time taken to complete this request would be approximately 47 hours (285 records x 10 minutes / 60 = 47.5).

Point 4

I have also interrogated the Welsh Government's iShare records management system, which contains over 1000 items relating to minutes with WLGA. Again, to collate the information requested, officials would have to review each record to determine if any included information in line with your request. I estimate it would take approximate 1 minute per transaction for officials to review each record to determine whether it related to awards of public funding to the WLGA. In total, the length of time taken to complete this request would be approximately 16 hours (1000 records x 1 minutes / 60 = 16.66).

Together these exceed the appropriate limit of 24 hours and therefore I am unable to provide the information requested.

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. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

You may wish to be aware the Welsh Local Government Association is obliged to publish as part of its Statutory Accounts information on grants received from Welsh Government. This information is available on the WLGA website.

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

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

Local Government Finance Policy / Polisi Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol
Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru