



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 10947

Date: 23 December 2016

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN reference 10947

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 28 November 2016.

You have asked for the following information:

details of what the First Minister has cost the taxpayer in:

- *costings;*
- *hotels;*
- *meals; and*
- *travel etc.*

I have concluded that to provide the information requested would 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 and because of this the regulations allow me to refuse to deal with it. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600.

When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to locate, retrieve and extract the information. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

In order to identify all of the costs which you have listed in your request it would be necessary to first check the activities of the First Minister for every day he has been in office. The First Minister was appointed in December 2009 which means checking a period of 6 years and 11 months. This represents some 2,500 days. Assuming an average of 1 minute to review each day's activities in order to identify any travel undertaken, accommodation used, or possible expenditure on food, this means 2,500 minutes of work, or nearly 42 hours. This is before adding the work required to identify the form of any expenditure, locate the necessary records of that expenditure and extract the relevant information.



For your information, the Welsh Government does publish information on the cost of Ministerial visits overseas which cost over £500. This includes visits undertaken by the First Minister. You can access this information here: <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministerial-code/?lang=en>

You might find it helpful to know that the salary cost of the First Minister is determined by the National Assembly for Wales rather than the Welsh Government. You may wish to look at the National Assembly's website for information on this.

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