



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 10947

Date: 30 January 2017

Complaint in respect of ATISN 10947

Thank you for your request for a review in relation to our disclosure under ATISN 10947 (received on 29 December 2017). I have considered your complaint 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.

Your request for a review is in relation to our citing within our disclosure the decision not to release the information requested as to do so would cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

I note that whilst you have said that you consider the response to be unacceptable you have not given any reasons as to why this is the case. Consequently, I have reviewed the complete handling of your request, including the interpretation of your request, the assessment of the nature and amount of work needed to identify and locate the information, and the appropriateness of the conclusion that the request breached the appropriate limit of £600 for the handling of requests by central government.

I note that your original request was acknowledged by Mr Moses on 30 November 2016 and that Mr Moses reiterated your request in that letter. No communication was received from you challenging our understanding of your request or asking for it to be amended in any way. Therefore I conclude that you were content that we properly understood the nature of the information you were requesting.

I note that in his final reply to you Mr Moses explained in appropriate detail that your request covered a substantial period of time (almost 7 years). Furthermore, Mr Moses explained the work that would need to be undertaken in order to identify the types of expenditure relating to the First Minister's activities on which you had sought cost figures. I consider this to be accurate, and I further consider that the time estimate of 1 minute per day to review the activities of the First Minister is a fair one. The calculation of nearly 42 hours of work is the result of a simple mathematical calculation using this time estimate and the period covered by your request and is therefore one which I do not consider to be open to challenge.



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Given that the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allow central government to refuse to deal with requests which are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, Mr Moses' conclusion that this limit is (significantly) breached in this case is correct.

Although your request breached the appropriate limit I note that Mr Moses did seek to assist you to find some cost information relating to the First Minister by referring you to published information on the Welsh Government website and also by referring you to the website of the National Assembly for Wales.

Having reviewed your request and its handling, my conclusion is that it was processed correctly by the Welsh Government. I have therefore not upheld your complaint as I am satisfied that the work required to provide the information requested would exceed the appropriate limit.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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.

Yours sincerely

Peter Greening
Head of Cabinet Division.