



24 February 2017

Dear ,

**ATISN 11076 – Welsh Government information concerning Sport Wales**

Thank you for your clarified request which I received on 9 February. You asked for:

- 1. Provide all material in the 'Assurance Review' - that is all written documents submitted between November 23 and December 22 2016 in the vote of no confidence in Paul Thomas.*
- 2. How many complaints of sexual impropriety involving staff members have been received by Sport Wales in the last three years?*
- 3. Provide the names of those people on the appointments board of the present Sport Wales chair.*
- 4. How many panel members and associated companies or organisations have received contracts or payments from Sport Wales in the last three years?*
- 5. How many contracts or business income have been awarded to companies which employ relatives of Laura McAllister?*

Having considered your request, I am writing to let you know that your request at 1. is being refused under section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on the grounds that it is vexatious.

The Information Commissioner's approach towards vexatious requests is set out in their guidance titled "Dealing with vexatious requests."

Paragraphs 64-74 of the ICO's guidance refers to requests which would impose a grossly oppressive burden which are not covered by the section 12 cost limit. The guidance states that, whilst a public authority cannot claim section 12 for the cost and effort associated with considering exemptions or redacting exempt information, it may be able to apply section 14(1) where it can make a case that the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure would impose a grossly oppressive burden. The ICO consider that the public authority would most likely to have a viable case where:

- The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information, and
- The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, and
- Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

In terms of these points, I can confirm that your request has asked for a substantial volume of information that would take considerable time to collate. The request asks for all material related to the assurance review, which amounts to hundreds of documents stored across different computers and physical folders. As the information contains a large amount of personal data – and also other information that should properly be withheld – the Welsh Government would have real concerns over any information entering the public domain that should be exempt. The information that has been captured by the request is contained in a disparate series of folders which makes it very difficult to isolate and redact all of this personal data with any certainty without interrogating each document individually. This task would impose a grossly oppressive burden on Welsh Government, both in terms of the time it would take and the fact that only certain, senior officials closely involved with the review and in-depth knowledge of the information would be able to undertake the task, which would take them away from their other duties for a considerable period of time.

For these reasons, your request at 1. is being refused under section 14(1) on the grounds that it is vexatious. I have answered the rest of your request below:

*2. How many complaints of sexual impropriety involving staff members have been received by Sport Wales in the last three years?*

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. This information may be held by Sport Wales.

*3. Provide the names of those people on the appointments board of the present Sport Wales chair.*

Sir Stephen Bubb, Baroness Kay Andrews and Arthur Emyr.

*4. How many panel members and associated companies or organisations have received contracts or payments from Sport Wales in the last three years?*

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. This information may be held by Sport Wales.

*5. How many contracts or business income have been awarded to companies which employ relatives of Laura McAllister?*

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. This information may be held by Sport Wales.

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](mailto: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