



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our Ref: ATISN 11204
7 April 2017

Dear

ATISN 11204 – Lap of Wales

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on 19 March 2017.

Further to my acknowledgement letter emailed on 24 March, I have aggregated your requests and interpreted it as follows:

1. The identity of the person authorising the Welsh Government contribution of £45,000 and copies of the advice that decision was based upon;
2. Copies of all correspondence (electronic or otherwise) between Welsh Government Ministers, their officials and BCUHB, relating to the Lap of Wales project;
3. Copies of all correspondence between Welsh Government Ministers, their officials and Awyr Las/Cerdwyn Ymlean relating to the Lap of Wales project, between 1 September 2015 and 1 January 2017;
4. Checks carried out by the Welsh Government on the way the £45,000 was spent;
5. When the Welsh Government was made aware of (a) a conflict of interest and (b) a failure to follow the correct tendering procedure.

I have determined that to respond to questions 2- 5 would cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information in circumstances where it estimates the cost of compliance would exceed “the appropriate limit”. The appropriate limit is defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. In the case of the Welsh Government the limit is set at £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 establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time (at a standard rate of £25 per hour) the limit will have been exceeded.

Your request on the Lap of Wales project is very broad in scope and the subject crosses a number of departments in the Welsh Government.

In conducting a preliminary search of electronic records held just by the Health and Social Services Group on the Lap of Wales project, we have identified that at least 40 individual



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exchanges and correspondence (electronic or otherwise) would need to be checked, each holding on average 20 interactions and/ or correspondence. We could therefore be potentially dealing with 800 exchanges and correspondence. A sample exercise shows that 3 minutes on average would be required to check each exchange to see if it contains any information relevant to your request. This would mean that it would take over 40 hours to complete.

For these reasons, I have concluded that your request should be refused on the basis that it exceeds the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

Under s.16 of the Freedom of Information Act, public bodies are under a duty to provide advice and assistance, as far as it is reasonable. I have therefore provided the following information in relation to question 1 i.e the identity of the person authorising the Welsh Government contribution of £45,000:

Mark Drakeford AM, the Minister for Health and Social Services at the time.

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.

The email address is: 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, who 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

Government Business Team