



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 11244

Date: 23 May 2017

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN reference 11244

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 19 April 2017. You asked for the following information - *the total spend on procurement cards and an itemised list of transactions for the 2016-17 financial year.*

I can confirm the information you have requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – information intended for future publication. Section 22 of the Act is a publicly tested exemption. I have set out at Annex 1 the reasons for non disclosure.

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



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MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
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CentralDepartments-FOI/DP@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Gwefan • website: www.cymru.gov.uk

Annex 1

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The general presumption of openness and transparency that the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

Public interest arguments against disclosure

- The intended publication date is in the not too distant future;
- The information in question is still subject to quality assurance/validation; and
- Disclosure of this information before the final publication date and before the necessary assurance/validation may compromise trust in the accuracy of official information.

In conclusion, the Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency that release would engender. We also acknowledge that publication would ensure accountability and transparency of public authorities for decisions taken by them and the spending of public money.

However, in this instance we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information in relation to procurement card payments should be withheld under s22 of Act.

Information on procurement card spend will be published on the Welsh Government Internet site, here <http://gov.wales/about/civilservice/how-we-work/facts-figures/ourfinance/?lang=en>

We expect to publish details, starting with the 2016-17 financial year, within the next two months.