



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 11429

Date: 21 August 2017

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN Reference 11429

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 26 July 2017. You asked for the following information:

1. Can you provide information relating to correspondence (e.g. email, letters, list of meetings, minutes of meetings) shared between the Welsh Government (e.g. Ministers, Officials, Civil Servants) and the other members of the Justice in Wales Working Group (i.e. Ministry of Justice, Cabinet Office, Home Office, Attorney General's Office, Crown Prosecution Service, Judicial Office and the Wales Office) in relation the work being carried out by the Justice in Wales Working Group.
2. Can this information be provided for the period between 7 June 2016 and 26 July 2017.

I have concluded the information you are seeking is exempt under the exemption in Section 28 - Relations within the United Kingdom. I have set out, in Annex 1, the arguments supporting this public tested exemption.

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.



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Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

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

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

Annex 1

I have concluded the information you are seeking is exempt under the exemption in section 28 - Relations within the United Kingdom.

Section 28 Relations within the United Kingdom

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between any administration in the United Kingdom and any other such administration.

This exemption is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption. This means that, in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it.

The Welsh Government acknowledges that there is public interest in understanding the process by which the Welsh Government and the UK Government discuss certain policy matters. Further, the release of the information is likely to lead to greater transparency in the way the Welsh Government conducts business with other administrations, which can improve accountability and public trust.

There is public interest in ensuring that a close and effective working relationship between UK Government departments and the Welsh Government is maintained. Since discussions concerning the development and delivery of justice policy in Wales are ongoing, maintaining open lines of communication and a climate of mutual trust and confidence between the Welsh Government and the UK Government is essential.

If the information was disclosed by the Welsh Government, this could inhibit future collaborative working between both parties, with less willingness to share information with each other and could undermine future negotiations between the two governments. The information being withheld involves subject matter which may still be under consideration by the Welsh Government and the UK Government.

Following careful consideration, I believe that the balance of public interest falls in favour of withholding the information requested, due to the exemption outlined above.