



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 11451

01 September 2017

Dear ,

ATISN 11451 – Blood products

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on 3 August.

You asked for:

- Any documents and/or correspondence to and from ministers/civil servants at the Wales Office pertaining to the use of Factor Concentrates (Factor VIII and Factor IX) blood products on Haemophiliacs between 1973 and 1987.
- Any documents/and or correspondence to and from ministers/civil servants at the Wales Office to/from the Welsh Blood Service pertaining to the use of Factor Concentrates (Factor VIII and Factor IX) blood products on Haemophiliacs between 1973 and 1987

After contacting you to clarify your request I interpreted your request as follows:

- All internal documents and/or correspondence to and from ministers/civil servants at the Welsh Office between 1973 and 1987, pertaining to the use of Factor Concentrates (Factor VIII and Factor IX) blood products on Haemophiliacs.
- Any documents and/or correspondence to and from ministers/civil servants at the Welsh Office and the Welsh Blood Service between 1973 and 1987, pertaining to the use of Factor Concentrates (Factor VIII and Factor IX) blood products on Haemophiliacs.

The Welsh Government believes that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request.

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



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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 is very broad in scope and seeks information covering a period of 14 years dating back to 1973 to 1987. A preliminary search of the hard files held by the National Archives on behalf of Health and Social Service department on the use of blood products has identified 44 files which would need to be checked, each holding on average 65 documents. We could therefore be potentially dealing with 2860 documents. A sample exercise shows that 2 minutes on average would be required to check each document to see if it contains any information from your request. This would mean that it would take over 95 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.

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 e-mail 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,