



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 11700

4 December 2017

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 11700

I wrote to you on 14 November regarding your request for information. You asked for information relating to land adjacent to the A465 and McDonalds near Glynneath:

1. How much money has been spent over the past 25 years in remediating and creating serviced land plots on the Welsh Government owned land adjacent to the A465 in Glynneath (as per attached plan).
2. What steps and representations has the Welsh Government made in the past 5 years to ensure the continued employment land allocation in Neath Port Talbot's emerging LDP.
3. What correspondence has there been between the Welsh Government and Neath Port Talbot Council regarding this land over the past two years.

I can confirm that we hold information relating to your request:

1. Our records indicate since 1993, £953,037.96 (excluding VAT) has been spent by the former Welsh Development Agency and Welsh Government in remediating the sites and creating serviced land plots identified on your plan at Glynneath.
2. Welsh Government Property Division submitted representations to the Local Development Plan Candidate Site Process in order to reinforce the prevailing UDP employment allocation for B1 B2 & B8 uses.

Welsh Government engaged consultants to complete a Flood Consequence Assessment of the River Neath in order to promote specific proposals for a new medical centre on part of the Glynneath site.



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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.

Welsh Government Officials engaged in dialogue with Neath Port Talbot planning officials to object to the site's de-allocation from the LDP for employment uses. Despite these objections the Local Authority omitted the site from the Local Development Plan employment land bank. Neath Port Talbot planning officials did assure Welsh Government however, that should any substantive developer interest in the sites be expressed such proposals would be considered on their individual merits.

3. The Freedom of Information Act provides a right to ask for recorded information held at the time a request is made. It does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide information where that information is not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner's guidance 'The Guide to Freedom of Information', page 7:

"The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it."

That said, I can advise that the nature of the correspondence between Neath Port Talbot and Welsh Government over the last 2 years relates specifically to development proposals for a new medical centre and associated accompanying works in respect of obtaining a planning consent, discharging associated planning conditions and agreeing road and drainage adoptions.

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 FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number.

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,