



4 December 2017

Dear ,

ATISN 11755 – Request for information relating to the secondment of CFO Lee Howell to the Welsh Government

Further to my letter of 28 November, I have now gathered the information you requested in relation to the costs associated with the secondment of CFO Lee Howell as Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser to the Welsh Government. You asked for:

1. Was the contract for the secondment of CFO Lee Howell to the Welsh Government with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority (DSFRA) or Red One Ltd?

(a) The secondment agreement was between the Welsh Government and DSFRA.

2. Were payments made to Red One Ltd for the secondment of Lee Howell?

(a) Yes. Red One Ltd invoiced us for Mr Howell's services on behalf of DSFRA.

3. What on costs (profits) were added to the contract as a result of payments made to Red One Ltd rather than direct to DSFRA?

(a) None. The total amount reimbursed to Red One Ltd equalled the pre-set remuneration level for Mr Howell as set out in the job advertisement, plus VAT.

4. Were the contract payments to Red One Ltd authorised as part of a procurement process?

(a) No. We had no contract with Red One Ltd.

5. As the contract for CFO Lee Howell was via limited company, did the value of the contract require departure from normal procurement procedures or was the normal procurement tendering processes observed?

(a) See question 4 above.

6. Was the process and payments made to Red One Ltd subject to audit?

(a) All Welsh Government expenditure is subject to audit by the Auditor General for Wales.

7. Is the Welsh Government seeking to recover from DSFRA the additional costs charged by Red One Ltd for the secondment of the Chief Fire Officer?

(a) No. There were no such costs; see question 3 above.

CFO Lee Howell was appointed to the Welsh Government on the basis of merit and through fair and open competition, in line with Civil Service rules. The job advertisement, which pre-set the remuneration for the post, is attached to this letter. The remuneration was based on the senior civil service pay system and the post was set at Deputy Director level.

I trust that the responses above and the job advertisement attached fully answer all of the questions you raised.

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