



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 11697

Date: 7 December 2017

Dear _____,

Request for Information – ATISN reference 11697

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 8 November 2017. You asked for the following information:

On what date, and at what time did the First Minister become aware of allegations relating to Carl Sargeant's conduct;

Which Special Adviser was appointed by the First Minister to make contact with the complainant(s);

Minutes and attendees of the meeting at which Carl Sargeant was sacked as a Cabinet Secretary;

Were civil servants asked to leave the meeting at any point?

No recorded information is held by the Government in relation to the first and second points.

In relation to the request for the minutes of the meeting referred to in point three, it is a matter of public record that there is a note of the meeting. I have applied a public interest test to this information and whilst there may be interest in releasing such information at this stage, this must be balanced against the need to ensure that the person undertaking the QC led inquiry has the time and space to consider the relevance of the note and undertake their investigation without being distracted by any premature disclosure of information. The timing of such a release could lead to other parties expressing opinion in the media and forming conclusions before the QC led inquiry has completed its work.

Therefore, on balance, I have concluded that the note of the meeting is exempt from publication under Section 31(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is information which would or would be likely to prejudice the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper.

In relation to point four, no recorded information is held by the Government.

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