



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

6 March 2018

Dear ,

Complaint in respect of Request for Information – reference ATISN 11941

Further to your message of 9 February, I write to update you on my internal review of the handling of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I have conducted the review in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests](#) for Information which is available by post on request, or via the internet.

Your request for information, with the above reference, was rejected on grounds that the request was vexatious, in accordance with section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

This review considered only the issues in relation to this FOI request and whether the decision to refuse the request was reasonable, appropriate and met the necessary criteria for the exemption. I note that you have made a separate complaint about individuals in the Welsh Government and their wider engagement with you. This has been considered and reported on separately.

Following my review, I uphold the original decision to refuse the request on grounds that it is vexatious. The ICO has issued clear guidance on the application of section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act on vexatious requests. That sets out various indicators that were explained in the letter of 7 February 2018 responding to your original request. The assessments against these indicators were explained in that letter. I find that those explanations were reasonable and compelling. The cumulative effect of those indicators justifies an exemption on grounds that the request is vexatious.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ

Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)
Email: ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Render
Lead Director for the Environment and Rural Affairs