



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 12015 / 12031 / 12036 / 12119

Date: 6 March 2018

Dear ,

**Requests for Information – ATISN references 12015 / 12031 / 12119
and related request 12036**

Thank you for your requests, which were received by the Welsh Government on 6, 7 and 23 February 2018 and which are set out at Annex 1.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if it calculates that dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In addition, The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allow a public authority to aggregate requests for the purposes of calculating the appropriate limit where they are made:

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

Where they are, the Regulations state that the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the total costs of complying with all of them. This applies in circumstances in which –

(a) the two or more requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information, and

(b) those requests are received by the public authority within any period of sixty consecutive working days.

I can confirm that, along with your three requests, the Welsh Government has received one further request, asking for the same or similar information (in part) to your request (logged as ATISN 12036). The full text of all these requests is set out in Annex 1.

In terms of the initial criteria above, I believe that as the requests are all the same or very similar, they were submitted by requesters acting either in concert or in pursuance of a campaign. As the remainder of the criteria in the Regulations are satisfied, I have aggregated all four requests for the purposes of calculating the appropriate limit and have assessed that the combined total time to locate the information requested would be 5,018.7hrs.

In conclusion, I have determined that to provide the information requested in relation to these combined requests would cost more than the appropriate limit, which is £600 for central government, so I am refusing your requests on this basis.

However, we may be able to reconsider your requests if you were more specific about the information you require.

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

ATISN 12015

The publication of all email correspondence relating to government business during the months of October 1st 2017 to January 31st 2018, between the personal accounts of Welsh Government Ministers and special advisers/civil servants in the Welsh Government?

ATISN 12031

All correspondence (email, text, letter or otherwise – including personal email accounts) to and from Welsh Government officials/civil servants/special advisers/ministers and the Cabinet Secretary for Health (Vaughan Gething) between the 24th December 2017 and 15th January 2018

ATISN 12036

*Copies of all emails sent or received from the First Minister's personal email accounts relating to press lines, comments or press releases;
Copies of all emails sent from the First Minister's personal email address (relating to *official Welsh Government business*) to email addresses outside of Welsh Government;
Please limit the search to all emails since May 1st 2017 to the present day (of submission)*

ATISN 12119

All emails send and received on the First Minister's personal email account/s if more than one, which were are related to Welsh Government business and/or First Minister business during the period between 1st October 2017 and today (22nd February 2018).