

Swyddfa'r Prif Weinidog a Swyddfa'r Cabinet

Office of the First Minister and Cabinet Office



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 12082
Date: 16 February 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN reference 12082

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 15 February 2018.
You asked for the following information:

Please could you send me a list of all meetings with individuals or organisations held by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, since October 2017 to date.

Some of this information is already publically available at the following link:
<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements/?lang=en>

The remainder of the information you have requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

However, the remaining information requested will be published in due course.

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.



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Central Departments-FOI/DPgov.wales
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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

Annex 1

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to some of the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

Public interest arguments against disclosure

The intended publication date is in the not too distant future.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, which is why the First Minister has previously written to all Assembly Members confirming that details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations and attendance at engagements would be published to the Welsh Government website quarterly from January 2017. The first four quarters are available on the Welsh Government website and the information requested will be published during the next tranche in early April 2018.

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information in relation to Ministerial diaries should be withheld under s22 of Act.

The information will be published in due course at the following link:

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements/?lang=en>