



14 March 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information: ATISN 12106

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 14 February as part of Animal Aid's response to the Draft Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan for Wales public consultation (ref: WG32274).

I confirm that we hold some recorded information relating to your request. A copy of which is enclosed at Annex A.

I am unable to provide definitive information on the cost of the proposed vulnerability mapping at this time as we do not hold information about the cost at this point. The consultation is intended to inform the decision making process on this element. We anticipate that the mapping study may cost around £10,000 but no decision has been taken to proceed with this work and no costs have yet been incurred.

With regards to the funding invested in killing grey squirrels, I can confirm that funding has been available from the Welsh Government through the Glastir schemes for grey squirrel control. Information on costs for control of grey squirrels on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate may be sought from Natural Resources Wales. Requests for information should be directed to their public enquiries line on 0300 065 3000 via email at accesstoinformationteam@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

The Welsh Government seeks to provide training on best practice for the humane capture and control of grey squirrels. Farming Connect provides 80% of funding toward approved, accredited training. This is fully detailed in Annex A, but the total support provided so far has been £1,184.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



The compilation and running of Welsh Government consultations are an inherent part of our duties. As such staff resources and costs incurred are met from usual departmental running costs. However, in order to be thorough in my response, our consultation process did include four stakeholder working group meetings; the meetings were attended by members of our Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel.

We held a wider workshop event on Thursday 6th July 2017 and had a range of invited organisations, to ensure that everyone with an interest could attend and contribute. The Welsh Government provided hospitality for the event and reimbursed our chairperson for expenses to travel to our office in Aberystwyth (listed in Annex A). As these costs are essentially “business as usual”, we would not envisage them being included in any calculation to assess the costs of managing grey squirrels in Wales.

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@gov.wales

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,

1) All financial costs associated with the Welsh Government consultation WG32274 Draft Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan which ran between 20/11/2017 – 21/02/2018

Details of the pre-public consultation stakeholder engagement event (held on the 6th July):

- Hospitality (beverages and lunch for delegates) - £169.86
- Travel expenses for external chairperson - £85.50

Total cost incurred - £255.36

Details of Action Plan Working Group Meetings relating to the consultation:

- After the decision to consult was confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary, the working group meetings were held on:
 - 1st March 2017
 - 5th April 2017
 - 11th May 2017 (via telecom)
 - 29th August 2017
- Hospitality: beverages (lunches were not provided) – £42.80
- Travel expenses incurred - £85.61

Total cost incurred for consultation drafting advice - £128.41

2) Welsh Government funding claimed via Glastir programmes

Glastir Advanced	Payments for wildlife control (including grey squirrel) made 2013-2017		
Option	542	543	550
Total Spend	£20,748.00	£232,020.00	£238.00

Glastir Woodland Management	Payments for wildlife control (including grey squirrel) made 2013-2017		
Option	542	543	550
Total Spend	£28,068.00	£362,404.00	£1,307.00

Options Key

542 Species Control – Grey Squirrel Trap Payment

543 Species Control – Inspection and maintenance of traps (grey squirrel, mink or rabbit)

550 Squirrel Hoppers (for control of grey squirrels outside red squirrel areas) – please note that this control option is no longer in use with the ban on the use of Warfarin.

A break down for the number of small mammal traps under Option 542 are:

- 939 Squirrel
- 109 Mink
- 2 Rabbit

Total funding approved and claimed from the Welsh Government for:

- **Glastir Advanced (listed Options) - £253,006.00**
- **Glastir Woodland Management (listed Options) - £391,779.00**

3) Training delivered through the Welsh Government's Farming Connect programme for the humane control of grey squirrels

- Since the launch of Farming Connect's Lifelong Learning and Development Programme in October 2015, Farming Connect has supported 9 instances of grey squirrel control training.
- Through our Skills and Mentoring Programme, eligible individuals registered with Farming Connect can access subsidised funding at 80% for completing short accredited training courses.
- The average cost of the course is £131.55

Total cost of training delivered by Farming Connect - £1,184