



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 12104 / 12118

Date: 20 March 2018

Dear ,

Requests for Information – ATISN references 12104 / 12118 and related requests ATISN 11947 / 11948 / 11949 / 11950

Thank you for your latest requests, which were received by the Welsh Government on 20 and 22 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 two new requests, the Welsh Government has received four previous requests from you, asking for the same or similar information (in part). These have been logged as ATISN 11947 / 11948 / 11949 / 11950. The full text of all these requests is set out at Annex 1.

In terms of the initial criteria above, the requests you have submitted are all the same or very similar and have been received within a period of sixty consecutive working days. In addition, as the remainder of the criteria in the Regulations are satisfied, I have aggregated all requests for the purposes of calculating the appropriate limit and have assessed that the combined total time to locate the information requested would be 1, 717.16hrs.

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,

Annex 1

New requests ATISN 12104 and 12118, aggregated with previous requests ATISN 11947 / 11948 / 11949 / 11950, which combined exceed the appropriate limit:

ATISN 12104

Details of ministerial diary meetings between Carwyn Jones and Plaid AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017.

ATISN 12118

Number of meetings between Carwyn Jones / Mark Drakeford / Jane Hutt and Plaid AMs between 1 May 2016 and 31 October 2017. Please include any minutes for the meetings.

All correspondences (including text messages) between Carwyn Jones / Mark Drakeford / Jane Hutt and Plaid Cymru AMs between 1 May 2016 and 31 October 2017.

All available correspondences between Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru AMs between 1 May 2016 and 31 October 2017.

Previous requests ATISN 11947 / 11948 / 11949 / 11950, which combined exceed the appropriate limit:

ATISN 11947

Details of ministerial diary meetings between Carwyn Jones and Plaid AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017. Please include any minutes, agendas, or attendees associated with the meetings; and

all correspondences between Carwyn Jones and Plaid Cymru AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017.

ATISN 11948

Details of ministerial diary meetings between Mark Drakeford and Plaid Cymru AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017. Please include any minutes, agendas, or attendees associated with the meetings.

All correspondences between Mark Drakeford and Plaid AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017.

ATISN 11949

Details of ministerial diary meetings between Jane Hutt and Plaid AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017. Please include any minutes, agendas, or attendees associated with the meetings; and

All correspondences between Jane Hutt and Plaid AMs between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017.

ATISN 11950

Details of meetings and correspondences between Welsh Government special advisors and Plaid Cymru AMs and/or Plaid Cymru AMSS between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017. Please include any minutes, agendas, or attendees associated with the meetings.