



6 June 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 12313

I wrote to you on 14 May regarding your request for information. You have asked for the following information:

1. How much Welsh Government owned land has been used for actual house building in the last 5 years (2012 - 2017) - whether it is possible to state in terms of acres / hectares or numbers of houses?
2. How much Welsh Government owned land is green field sites and currently identified for house building by WG (eg acres / hectares)
3. How much Welsh Government owned land (of any type of site) is currently identified for house building by WG.

I can confirm that we hold some information relating to your request. The Welsh Government will not necessarily hold information on land that it has disposed of over the period you have specified where that land will have been used for house building. For the information that we do hold, I have concluded that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to deal with your request. 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.

Information relating to Welsh Government owned land is not collated within a single report or database and the information you have requested, over a period of some 5 years, will be held by more than one Welsh Government Department. The Economy and Transport Property division holds records of both existing employment site and housing land assets. In order to prepare a comprehensive search of all Welsh Government land held and sold for housing will involve extensive consultations with various other Welsh Government Departments researching archived files and electronic data. Taking the SA1 development as a single example, there are at least 10 separate sites associated with the development.

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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.

I have estimated that searching through records for one site of the SA1 development alone would take one official approximately 4-5 hours. To complete your request in its entirety for all Welsh Government owned sites would mean approximately 10 officials undertaking similar searches, meaning searching for the information would far exceed the allowed 24 working hours. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to submit a revised request refining the information which you require which would bring it within scope. If you do submit a new request, please note that the total site area of housing land sold by the Welsh Government in the requested period is available from the Land Registry for Wales. You may wish to search the Land Registry in the first instance for the type of information you are looking for. This will enable the Welsh Government to undertake further extended searches based on the information you provide.

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: Freedom.of.information@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