



12 June 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 12339

We wrote to you on 22 May regarding your request for information. You asked:

1. What level of financial support has the Welsh Government provided towards the Cardiff-Anglesey air link in the following years: 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?
2. Until when does the current agreement run between the Welsh Government and Eastern Airways/Flybe to operate the route?
3. What level of financial support has the Welsh Government pledged for each year until the end of the current agreement?

I confirm we hold information caught by your request. For your first question, I have concluded that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information otherwise available. Information regarding the Welsh Government's financial support towards the Cardiff-Anglesey air link for the years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 is available to view at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/2016/sep16/atish10665/?lang=en>. The financial support for 2016/17 was £1.08m and £1.88m for 2017/2018.

It should be noted that the increase for 2017/2018 is due in part to the contract being awarded as an emergency procedure following failure of the previous operator and in part due to the new and current airline providing a significantly enhanced service with a larger aircraft and a mature ticketing distribution network. These enhancements have proven popular with passengers and Eastern Airways has been successful in growing the route significantly since it was awarded the contract.



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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 .

For your second and third questions, I can advise the current arrangement with Eastern Airways is based on a one month rolling agreement until September 2018. This may be further extended if necessary to comply with European procurement regulations in relation to re-procuring the PSO operation. The Welsh Government intends to launch a competitive tender exercise shortly to secure a long term operator for the route for the next 4 years. This market competition will determine the level of funding required going forward.

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.ofinformation@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