



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 13713

18 February 2020

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 13713

I wrote to you on 28 January regarding your request for information, following your earlier response of 23 January in which you provided some clarification. Based on that clarification, you asked for:

1. All correspondence for the last 4 years between the Welsh Government and Aston Martin regarding the 30 year guarantee placed on the St Athan site.
2. Correspondence between the Welsh Government and Aston Martin regarding Aston Martin's trading position following the fairly recent news on Aston Martin finances, showing whether the Welsh Government has discussed the issue with Aston Martin and whether the Welsh Government has been approached for further grants and financial support.

I confirm we hold some information caught by your request.

In my letter of 28 January, I explained that your request was likely to be very time consuming to deal with. I provided you with advice and guidance on how to submit a more focused request for your first question which would help to potentially bring it within scope. Given I have not heard any further from you, I have considered your request as outlined above.

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 first question. 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.



As explained in my letter of 28 January, an initial search of our files, which includes both letters and e-mails, has highlighted a large number of documents over a 4 year period which may be relevant to your request. Given you have requested copies of **all** correspondence between the Welsh Government and Aston Martin makes the search parameters very wide. As previously explained, the documents in question are not filed in such a way that separates correspondence regarding the 30 year guarantee period from any other correspondence between the Welsh Government and Aston Martin. It would be necessary, therefore, to search through every piece of correspondence held over the timeframe you have specified. There are several hundred documents, saved on both our corporate electronic filing system and also in individual e-mail accounts of the officials involved. I estimate this exercise would take far more than the 24 working hour period. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested for your first question.

We do not hold any information for your second question.

Should you wish to submit a new request for information, I would again ask you to be as specific and descriptive as possible with your request. Perhaps you could be more specific about the nature of the information you believe we hold regarding the 30 year guarantee. A shorter search time-frame, for example, the last 12 months, may also help to bring your request within scope. Please be as precise and descriptive as possible when explaining what information you believe we hold and want me to search for.

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