



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

7 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14252 - Exams correspondence

Further to your request of 19 August and the letter you were sent on 24 August acknowledging your request for:

“all correspondence between the Welsh Government and the other UK administrations (namely the UK Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive) relating to the process of deciding how the 2020 A Level and GCSE grades should be decided in the absence of exams before the first set of Scottish results was published on 4th August and for correspondence since then”.

We also wrote on 4 September asking you to consider refining your request so that it did not exceed the appropriate limit. We did not receive a response.

Apologies for the delay in responding, but as advised on 24 August, the Welsh Government is facing unprecedented challenges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and this has impacted on our ability to comply with the normal requirements for information rights work.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives individuals a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority at the time the request was received. It does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide views or opinions where those views are not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner’s guidance ‘The Guide to Freedom of Information’, page 7:

“The Act does not cover information that is in someone’s head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.”

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.

Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

To that end, the recorded information that we hold in relation to your question is enclosed at Annex 1 which accompanies this letter.

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: Freedomofinformation@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