

19 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14369 – Zoo Questionnaire

Thank you for your email which I received on 29 September requesting information in relation to 'what zoos received financial help and grants specifically as a result of the Welsh Government Zoo Questionnaire dated 24th April 2020'. The information you requested is enclosed below:

On 24th April I can confirm we wrote to all zoos in Wales with details of existing schemes from which they may be eligible for funding, as well as issuing a questionnaire to identify key animal welfare concerns and whether any funding gaps exist. It should be noted that the questionnaire focused on animal welfare needs as a result of an impact of reduced income, not to ascertain the ongoing economic or financial viability of the organisation, as these business related needs would be determined under the wider UK and Welsh Government Schemes available.

17 responses were received, including from two animal exhibits which are not licensed zoos. Most responses indicated they had been successful, or were in the process of applying for funding from various government schemes or directly from their banks.

Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain which Zoos obtained funding as a direct result of the questionnaire, as its purpose was to signpost Zoos to existing funding schemes, should they not already be aware of them.

Officials confirmed that unlike England, a specific Zoo fund was not necessary in Wales due to the existence of the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF), which aims to support the Welsh Economy, businesses, and charities experiencing a sharp drop in trading as a result of the Coronavirus.

Details of the Zoos who successfully received funding through the ERF in both phases 1 and 2 has been published and can be found at

Phase 1 - <https://businesswales.gov.wales/welsh-government-economic-resilience-fund-phase-1-awarded-organisations>

Phase 2 - <https://businesswales.gov.wales/welsh-government-economic-resilience-fund-phase-2-awarded-organisations>

In addition, any Zoos with charitable status were encouraged to apply to the Welsh 'Third Sector Resilience Fund', should their application to the Economic Resilience Fund be unsuccessful. A full list of organisations funded can be found at the bottom

of the following webpage: <https://wcva.cymru/funding/social-investment-cymru/third-sector-resilience-fund-for-wales/>

In addition, like other businesses across Wales, Zoos could apply for loans through the 'Development Bank of Wales' scheme. Since 1st April 2020, a total of £882k in loans has been provided to Welsh Zoos and Aquaria through this funding.

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