



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

By email:

Ein Cyf/Our ref: ATISN 15338
Eich Cyf/Your ref:
Dyddiad/Date: 13 August 2021

Dear

ATISN 15338 Changes to the Planning Inspectorate

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 20 July 2021. You asked for information relating to the transfer of functions from Planning Inspectorate Wales to the Welsh Government, as follows:

- A copy of the report(s) that explains the background, rationale and benefit arising from the change?
- The cost of change (including the cost of new systems and software) in terms of the Welsh Government's budget?
- An estimate of the cost to Local Planning Authorities in amending paperwork advising applicants of the new arrangement, etc? and
- Details, practical and financial, of any savings projected as a result of the change?

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

Items 1 and 4 – these are addressed in the business case (see Items 001, 001a and 001b attached)

Item 2 – the overall cost for the transfer of functions is £370k, broken down as follows:

- £240k for development of a new ICT system within Welsh Government;
- £86k to the Planning Inspectorate for project management to support the transfer; and
- £40k to the Planning Inspectorate for a contractor to extract Wales-specific case work from the Planning Inspectorate's ICT system.

Item 3 – there is no cost to LPAs for implementing this decision. Existing appellants and third parties for live cases will be contacted by the Planning Inspectorate directly to inform them of the transfer of functions, and correspondence issued by Planning Inspectorate Wales over the last 6 months has highlighted the impending change. LPAs will continue to signpost Welsh appellants and third parties to guidance on the appeals process via the Welsh Government, and the website will be modified to direct service users appropriately.

Next steps

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