



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 18769  
Date: 22 August 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**ATISN 18769**

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 July 2023. You asked for the following information:

1. The amount of money spent on the services of private consulting firms by the Welsh Government, by financial year for the last 10 financial years.
2. A list of all specific projects (whether external i.e. infrastructure or internal i.e. management) for which these services have been employed in the past 10 financial years, including:
  - Brief details of the nature of the project
  - The start and end dates of the firm's involvement
  - The name of the firm
  - Brief details of the purpose of employing the firm's services
  - The amount of money given to the firm in this period
3. A list of the 10 firms on which the Welsh Government spent the most money in the past 10 financial years, with the amount of money for each.

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.



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[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

Welsh Government's finance system does not capture the information you have requested and as such, it would be necessary to undertake a manual exercise to reconcile transaction information from our finance system to determine, firstly, a payment to consultancy firm and then locate, extract and retrieve the remaining information, if held, from multiple areas of Welsh Government (which could be held in hard or electronic copy). Furthermore, a payment may not necessarily be attributed solely to the 'consultancy' nominal (the finance description of payment) and it would be necessary to determine where other costs may have been charged (and then undertake a similar reconciling exercise).

For just the financial year 2019-2020 (and considering the consultancy nominal alone) there were 6186 transactions. Taking a minimal 2 minutes to review each transaction before any further time is taken to locate, extract and retrieve information against all areas of your request would take 206 hours (6186 transactions x 2 minutes / 60 = 206 hours). The time limit is further exceeded when considering each further financial year.

Please note that our finance system does not hold all of the type of information you have set out in your question and therefore a manual exercise as described above would be required to provide information of this nature. You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any narrowed dates or period of time.

If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible.

Welsh Government does publish expenditure over £25,000 information which can be found here [Welsh Government expenditure over £25,000 | GOV.WALES](#)

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 e-mail: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto: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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely