

15 September 2023

Dear

**Request for Information: ATISN 18856**

Thank you for your clarification email which I received on 8 September. You asked for:

*Please provide me with any correspondence (held electronically or physically) between Welsh Government cabinet members and deputy ministers regarding the building of nuclear power stations in Wales, from September 2021 to September 2023.*

As your request currently stands, dealing with it will be very time consuming. Requesting a broad scope of information such as “any correspondence” over a 2-year timeframe makes the search difficult since not all correspondence is grouped in the same place within our records system. Numerous members of Welsh Government staff will have been involved in the drafting and submitting of correspondence between Ministers.

All of the information requested is stored on our Electronic Document and Records Management System, known as iShare. iShare is the corporate repository for the majority of information created and received by Welsh Government Officials in the course of their duties that must be retained for business or historical purposes. Further information about iShare can be found under Section 7 of our Information and Records Management policy, which is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Documents saved on iShare use naming conventions appropriate to the effective recording of information. Setting our system in this way, and in line with our Records Management policy, enables effective delivery but does not necessarily lend itself to being easily interrogated for generic information requests. Where the Welsh Government believes providing such information would involve excessive and time-consuming searches, we inform requesters of that fact in line with our obligations under the section 45 Code of Practice and invite them to narrow down or re-focus their requests.

A general iShare search using the search terms ‘*correspondence, Ministers, building of nuclear power stations in Wales*’, for the year 2021 alone, yielded over two

thousand results. At an average estimate of one minute to check whether each result is relevant to your request and then extract the relevant information, would take one official at least a full working week just to sift through the items from 2021.

Additionally, the naming convention for any correspondence between the Welsh Government Ministers regarding the *building of nuclear power stations in Wales* may not always include the title of 'correspondence', therefore a refined request for a particular nuclear site or being more specific about what information you are seeking, would help to bring the request within scope.

The cost limit specified for central government FOI searches is £600. This represents the cost of an estimated 24 hour period to determine whether we hold relevant information, retrieve and extract it. As outlined above, I estimate it would take one person over a week to deal with your request as framed, which well exceeds the maximum 24 hours permitted per request.

I have therefore concluded that your request will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and have decided to refuse it under Section 12 of the FoI Act. I would however welcome a refined request from you, which will be considered as a new request.

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](mailto: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

