

29 February 2024

Dear

ATISN 20154 Recording Council Meetings in Wales

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 1 February 2024. You asked for:

Documentation which explains why a member of the public is restricted or prohibited from visually recording council meetings, and the legislation around this.

Our response

I have decided that:

- The legislation prescribing this area and guidance provided to councils which explains the requirements, is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is already in the public domain and readily accessible to you.

The Welsh Government is unable to offer any legal advice or interpretation on the law. If you require legal advice or interpretation you should seek your own legal advice.

Legislation on the electronic broadcasts of local authority meetings can be found at [Part 3, Chapter 4, Section 46 of the Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) which is publicly available.

[Statutory and non-statutory guidance for principal councils](#) issued by Welsh Government, which is publicly available, includes information on supporting broadcasting by members of the public at Part 4, Section 15 from paragraph 15.134. It is expected that principal councils give regard to local circumstances in deciding approaches adopted for the practical considerations of the operation of meetings with further details in the guidance at Part 4, Section 15 from paragraph 15.52.

Publicly available guidance issued by Welsh Government on meeting arrangements for town and community councils can be found at Chapter 2 and 3 of the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Town and Community Councils](#).

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