



18 June 2024

Dear ,

ATISN 19595 – Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme

Further to your request received on 20 May 2024. You asked for:

A copy of the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) submitted by Isle of Anglesey County Council, to the Welsh Government, along with all annexes and supporting documents.

The information request is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

Isle of Anglesey County Council has submitted their SOP, which is currently being reviewed by Officials. Our Programme's Education Investment Panel will agree a recommendation for the Cabinet Secretary for Education to consider. Publishing the SOP in advance of this process could prejudice the assessment process and ability to scrutinise against our policy requirements.

The Welsh Government will write the local authority following Cabinet Secretary consideration. This letter will request that they publish their SOP on their website. It is expected that this letter will be issued in July 2024.

The local authority has confirmed that they plan to publish their SOP.

Further information on the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is available here. [Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme | 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 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

Annex A

Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information:

A copy of the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) submitted by Isle of Anglesey County Council, to the Welsh Government, along with all annexes and supporting documents.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

22 Information intended for future publication.

(1) Information is exempt information if

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

The Welsh Government believes that the SOP for Isle of Anglesey County Council should be exempt from disclosure. The reason for this is that it is scheduled for publication by the local authority at a future date. The SOP is currently going through our internal review process with advice being developed for the Cabinet Secretary for Education to consider.

Public Interest Test

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

Modernising the school estate on Anglesey is important to Anglesey residents in order to ensure that school buildings are fit for purpose.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

The SOP contains sensitive information about the future of schools that could be misinterpreted. Releasing the information prior to a decision being made could prejudice decisions made by the Cabinet Secretary. The intention is to publish the information once the assessment is complete.

Balance of public interest test

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. To confirm the Cabinet Secretary is expected to make a decision in July. The local authority is then expected to publish their SOP soon after.