

12 July 2024

Dear

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 June. You asked for:

Details of the grant application in 2023 by Monmouthshire County Council for investigative work and to repair waterway and embankment between the rear of 32 Wyesham Avenue and The Paddocks in Wyesham Monmouth.

Our response

You asked a series of questions on your original request, which have been answered below:

What amount was awarded?

As part of the Small Scale Works Grant (SSWG) contract for the 2023/24 financial year, £8,500 was awarded for Wyesham Avenue, Monmouth - Flood and Erosion Prevention Measures.

What was the specific purpose of the grant in the application from Monmouthshire County Council?

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) as Risk Management Authority (RMA) applied for SSWG funding following multiple correspondence from the community regarding concerns of scour/collapse of the river embankments. The RMA identified concerns that any further bank erosion could potentially block the downstream culvert. Blockage of the culvert would increase the flood risk to downstream residential properties.

The purpose of the SSWG was to undertake vegetation clearance works in order to fully inspect the existing embankments and determine whether bank stabilisation works were required.

What works were undertaken?

The RMA undertook clearance works to remove vegetation which enabled a full inspection of the river embankment.

Whilst the vegetation removal identified a small area of scour and oversteepening of one of the banks with deposited material, no further works were deemed necessary at the time. The RMA will continue to monitor the watercourse, should clearance of any blockages or impediments to flow be necessary in future. MCC will continue to liaise with the relevant adjacent land/riparian owners. Should more substantial works be required in future, a SSWG application may be submitted.

The amount of grant paid/to be paid is less than the grant awarded as following completion of the vegetation clearance works, no additional remedial works were considered necessary at the time.

Two claims have been submitted for payment. Claim 7775262 of £357.85 was paid on 5 January 2024. The final claim 7787431 of £2,792.675 was received in March 2024 and is yet to be paid.

What assessment has been made to ensure the grant was used for the purposes it was intended?

The initial Expression of Interest for the SSWG is appraised by the technical team within the Welsh Government Flood Branch.

The appraisal includes the review of the application details and supporting documents, against the requirements of the grant set out within the Grant Memorandum.

Following an internal review of all applications received and Cabinet secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs approval; the RMA are informed of the successful applications.

If successful, the RMA are required to submit supporting documents when claiming funding for works undertaken, including invoices and timesheets. These have been provided in Docs 1-4.

Did this grant have an expiry date?

The latest grant offer letter has an expiry date of 16 March 2024.

Were there any special conditions attached to this grant?

No special conditions; SSWG contract conditions only.

Was Monmouthshire County Council required to provide an engineer's report following their investigations?

No.

Could copies of the grant application and subsequent reports please be forwarded to these email addresses?

To ensure the response is GDPR compliant, individuals email addresses cannot be added as all responses are published online. However, the information requested will be sent to the email addresses provided.

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