

Our ref ATISN 15063



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15063

I wrote to you on 7 May regarding your request for information.

Your request

The number of pieces of correspondence received by the Welsh Government expressing concern about the application of WeITAG, broken down by local authority area for each infrastructure project for which they were responsible and specifying whether from a private citizen, an organisation or a community interest group, providing names where possible, for the period January 2017 to March 2021.

Our Response

I can confirm that we hold information relating to your request. As noted in my letter of 7 May, your request was likely to be very time consuming to deal with and I asked that you refine your request. I suggested ways in which you could provide a more focused request. I apologise for the tight deadline to respond to us by 10 May, it was to ensure that we provided you with a final response by the 20 day deadline. I have therefore considered your request as noted above.

Requesting a broad scope of information (the application of WeITAG) as described over a 4 year timeframe makes the search very difficult and time consuming. Not all of the correspondence is grouped in the same place as there are numerous members of staff of the Welsh Government that will have dealt with the WeITAG applications.

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](#).



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Llywodraeth Cymru /
Welsh Government
Parc Cathays / Cathays Park
CF10 3NQ

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Documents are saved on iShare using naming conventions appropriate to the effective recording of information for our own purposes. Setting our systems in this way, and in line with our Records Management policy, enables effective delivery and will not necessarily lend themselves to being easily interrogated for generic requests for information. Where the Welsh Government believes providing such information would involve tasks that would be time consuming to deal with, in line with our obligations under the section 45 Code of Practice, we inform the requester of that fact and invite them to narrow down or re-focus their requests.

A general iShare search using the search terms 'WelTAG, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021' yielded almost four thousand results. At an average estimate of one minute per result to check whether it is relevant to your request and then extracting the relevant information, it would take one official at least a full working week, but it is very likely the work would extend beyond that timeframe.

Additionally, the naming convention for any correspondence received by the Welsh Government expressing concern about the application of WelTAG, may not always include the title of 'correspondence', therefore a refined request for a particular local authority area and/or particular scheme would bring the request within scope.

I have therefore concluded that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to deal with your request. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under Section 12 of the FoIA as to comply with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it. As outlined above, I estimate it would take at least 1 person over a week to retrieve and extract the information, which would easily extend the timeframe over 24 hours to deal with it.

We would welcome a refined request from you, which will be considered as a new request.

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.of.information@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