

30 April 2021

Dear

ATISN 15064

Information requested

Thank you for your request, which I received on 31 March 2021. You asked for:

All information held by the Welsh Government, including all relevant documents and record of discussions, together with legal advice, concerning matters of discrimination and unfairness in respect of inequality and discrimination regarding the selection criteria for Glastir Advanced.

Our response

The Rural Development Programme Managing Authority of the Welsh Government has reviewed the record of Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) minutes papers and cannot find any record of any specific discussion concerning matters of discrimination or unfairness.

By way of explanation, the minutes of PMC held 25 August 2010 records ... *Members would not be assessing the technical aspect but were being asked for their consent to submit the Measure Fiche formally to the Commission.* The minutes go on to explain Members were made aware *It is entirely possible that the environmental attributes that a Tir Gofal farm has will lead to a successful application to enter Glastir (because those attributes will provide a high score) but it is also possible that other farms not previously in Tir Gofal may score more highly.*

To provide some context, the PMC were involved at multiple stages of the protracted negotiations to implement Glastir, in order to consent to the formal submission of proposals (the measure fiche), which were subsequently scrutinised and approved by the European Commission, prior to the introduction of the Scheme. The measure fiche on the targeted element (later renamed Glastir Advanced) went to the PMC on the 25th August 2010, the Glastir All Wales Element (later renamed Entry), Commons, Agricultural Carbon Reduction and Efficiency Scheme (later renamed Glastir Efficiency Grants) and Glastir Woodland Creation went in February 2010. Changes to indicators and financial tables were submitted separately.

More generally, the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme, in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation 1698/2005, included a requirement to promote equality between men and women and prevent discrimination through the programme and its schemes, which was taken into consideration, including by the European Commission before approval was provided.

The relevant Welsh Government Legal Services team has also carried out a similar review of their records and did not produce any documentation relating to how decisions on how eligibility for Glastir Advanced was settled and the use of the mapping system. If they did hold any legal advice, the exemption in section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act 2020 would apply.

Therefore, I have established the Welsh Government does not hold the information you require.

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