

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15152

I wrote to you on 21 May regarding your request for information.

Information requested

You asked for the following information regarding the SA1 Waterfront development in Swansea:

1. Capital budgets for the above development for the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

2. Service charge budgets for the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 and 2021/22

3. Breakdown of maintenance costs for 2019/2020 and 2020/21

4. The total of monies collected from the occupied properties in the SA1 waterfront development for maintenance charges for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Our Response

I confirm we hold some information captured by your request.

- 1. The information for 2019/20 has already been provided to you under ATISN 13997. For 20/21 it was £2,402,000 and £2,000,000 for 21/22.
- 2. We do not hold the information in Financial Years. However we can provide 2019/20/21 budgets for the calendar year which have been enclosed.
- Breakdown of maintenance costs for 2019/2020 is considered exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information (FOIA) – Information Intended for Future Publication. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is attached at the end of this letter. 2021 information is not yet available.
- Please note that the figures relate to period 25/12/2018 24/12/2019 and 25/12/2019 24/12/2020, and not financial years, as this is how the charges are issued. 2019 £307,645.56. 2020 £251,154.42

Next steps



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.

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: <u>Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales</u>. 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

Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication

Section 22 states that 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 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).

I am of the opinion that subsections (a) and (b) above are met because the information is held with a view to its publication. This information is expected to be published at the earliest opportunity.

With regards to part (c), I have given consideration as to whether it would be 'reasonable in all the circumstances' that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the proposed publication date. I am of the opinion that releasing the information at this time would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's intentions in relation to its publication arrangements. Thus I am content that the exemption is engaged.

Section 22 is a public interest exemption. This means that, in order to withhold information, I must show that the public interest in withholding is greater than the public interest in releasing it.

In terms of the public interest, it is recognised that there is public interest in there being openness and transparency within Government.

The information relating to questions 3 is currently being collated and verified. We will in the future provide this information. The proposed release of this information has been agreed as part of normal business and will be published at the earliest opportunity.

By restricting access ahead of publication, we will be publishing the information in a co-ordinated manner and will ensure an editorial process is adhered to which will confirm the quality and integrity of data. Ultimately, this will improve the quality of information published and follow the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

An accelerated release of this information might result in inaccurate, unchecked information being disclosed prematurely, misleading the public.

To that end, I do not think it is reasonable in all the circumstances or in the public interest to release this information prematurely. Rather, I believe the public interest would be best served if the information were released as scheduled along with all other transactions for that period. I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.