



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**By Email only:**

Eich cyf/Your ref:  
Ein cyf/Our ref: **ATISN 15178**

Dyddiad/Date: 28/06/2021

Dear

**ATISN 15178 – Request for Information.**

Thank you for your request which I received on 28 May 2021. You asked for a copy 'any application for funding for construction of a new dairy in Haverford West.'

Our response

I have decided that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out at Annex 1 to this letter.

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](mailto: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:



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Llywodraeth Cymru - Welsh Government  
Doc Fictoria - Victoria Dock  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1TH

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 faithfully

## **Annex 1**

### **Engagement of section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act**

The Welsh Government considers that applications for financial support should be exempt from disclosure if they have not been appraised. Releasing an application prior to appraisal could have commercial implications for the company/companies involved.

#### **Public Interest Test**

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

- General Public interest in use of Public Money.
- Specific interest in use of public money for the dairy industry in West Wales

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

- Publication could result in potentially viable projects failing to materialise, resulting in opportunity costs.

#### **Balance of public interest test**

Whilst the general public interest in good use of public money is high, this interest would be served following routine publication of supported projects under the Wales Rural Development Plan.

The interest in publishing applications for funding before they have been appraised and approved is consequently less significant as applications may not subsequently be approved for funding.

Premature disclosure of applications could jeopardise projects, and serve as a disincentive to future applicants resulting in opportunity costs for citizens.