

Our Ref: ATISN 15240

9 July 2021

Dear

## Request for Information – ATISN 15240

I wrote to you on 17 June regarding your request for information sent on 10 June.

## **Your Request**

You asked for the following information:

- 1. The Economic Resilience Fund policy in relation to the support of businesses which are related to blood sport activity and activity that may lead to animal cruelty as a leisure activity.
- 2. Information or any documentation on the wider Welsh Government policy position which states it does not support blood sport activity and activity that may lead to animal cruelty as a leisure activity.

## Our response

For question one, I can confirm that the Economic Resilience Fund has its own operational guidance that aligns to the wider Welsh Government policy thus we do not hold on file an "ERF policy", however, we do hold information captured by your second request and related to this response.

For question two, I can confirm that there has been no change on blood sports eligibility to the discretionary Economic Resilience Fund (ERF). As part of the eligibility criteria for the discretionary and additional grant aid under ERF it states that the



following activities are not eligible for funding: (1) party political purposes; (2) the promotion of particular secular, religious or political views; (3) gambling; (4) pornography; (5) offering sexual services; (6) any kind of illegal activities; or (7) any kind of activity which in our opinion could bring the Welsh Government into disrepute. The Welsh Government does not support certain activities that are likely to give rise to controversy about appropriate use of public funds.

The Welsh Government does not support the shooting of live quarry as a leisure activity, and as a result applications are refused under category 7 - activity which in our opinion could bring the Welsh Government into disrepute. Game shooting for pleasure is deemed ineligible for ERF the same as exclusion of shoots from land owned by NRW under standard terms of grant award. Wider related activities such as vermin control, clay pigeon and associated hospitality venues are supported if meeting wider eligibility criteria. The ERF support is at the discretion of Welsh Ministers.

## **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: <a href="mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales">Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales</a>. 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,