



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15342

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

4 August 2021

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15342

I wrote to you on 22 July regarding your request for information.

Information Requested

- The independent report on the major events strategy of the Welsh Government, commissioned during the 2016 to 2021 administration of the Welsh Government.

Our Response

I confirm the Welsh Government holds the information caught by your request. I have decided, however, that the report is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act, information intended for future publication and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at Annex A 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. 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



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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.

Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

ATISN 15342 - Application of exemption

The Freedom of information Act provides a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

We have decided to withhold the following information:

- The independent report on the major events strategy of the Welsh Government, commissioned during the 2016 to 2021 administration of the Welsh Government.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

Engagement of s22, information intended for future publication

The Welsh Government believes the report you have requested should be exempt from disclosure. 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 in the coming months, after it has been considered by Ministers.

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.

Public interest test

It is recognised there is public interest in there being openness and transparency within Government. It is also recognised that some stakeholders, in particular major event organisations, will have a particular interest in the report and its recommendations given the wider economic benefits of major events to host cities and regions.

The contents and recommendations of the report you have requested is still being considered by Ministers. It is expected the report will be published on the Welsh Government after Ministers have reviewed it. Restricting access to the report ahead of publication means it will be published in a co-ordinated manner to all people at the same time, together with supporting contextual narrative. This will ensure an editorial process is adhered to which will confirm the quality and integrity of the report.

An accelerated release of the report which involves drafting preparation and set editorial processes 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.

I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information at this time.