



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15343

Date: 17 August 2021

Dear

ATISN 15343

Thank you for your request which I received on 20 July 2021. With regard to devolving further powers from Westminster to the Senedd and for the period July 2020 – July 2021, you requested copies of correspondence between:

- A) The First Minister and UK Government ministers;
- B) The Counsel General and UK Government ministers and;
- C) Welsh Government ministers and external stakeholder and sector groups in Wales.

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

You have requested information over the period of a year which will have involved many different teams, different departments across the Welsh Government and involving current and former staff, all of whose records would have to be consulted, where available. An initial scoping exercise was undertaken by a member of staff on our Welsh Government database, iShare. This is the corporate repository for the majority of information created and received by Welsh Government Officials in the course of their duties that must be retained for business or historical purposes.

A simple search on iShare using the words “devolution, further, power, senedd” identified 12755 documents and not all documents relating to your request will be called that therefore other searches would be required. The addition of the words “stakeholder” identified 6064 documents and the addition of the words “ministerial correspondence” identified 4214 documents.

At an estimate of taking 30 seconds to investigate each document to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it would take in excess of 24 hrs for this exercise alone. (Additional time to undertake other *iShare* searches including email correspondence for relevant staff members will also be taken into consideration.) Because this exceeds the appropriate limit



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established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request as it currently stands.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, for example the subject area in which you are particularly interested. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible.

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