

6 August 2021

Dear

ATISN 15361 - Petroleum request 2021-07-29

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 29 July 2021. You asked for:

- The reference numbers for the petroleum licences granted relating to land owned by the Crown.
- The land/boundary covered by each licence.

Our response

The information you requested is below, and can be accessed via the web-links provided to the Welsh Government web-site.

Details of the original petroleum licences issued by UK Government, any amendments, and their planning permission and environmental permit status can be found on the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence tracker. No new licences have been issued by the Welsh Ministers following the devolution of the licensing powers on 1 October 2018.

[Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence consent tracker](#)

PDF copies of the individual licences can be found via this link. Please note, not all of the licences have been published in full as, for some of the older licences, we only have paper scans that are not appropriate for publication on our website. However, all licences and their details are included in the tracker.

[Petroleum exploration and development licences \(PEDLs\)](#)

The acreage covered by the remaining extant (live) petroleum licences; PEDL 014, 100, 147, 148, 149 and 157, can be found on page 11 of the Petroleum Licensing Function in Wales Guidance. Please note, EXL203 has very recently been entirely determined, and is no longer available for any form of petroleum extraction. The licence tracker will be updated accordingly.

[Petroleum licensing](#)

You may wish to note that Part 1 of the Petroleum Act 1998 defines petroleum (oil and gas hydrocarbons) and vests all rights to it in the Crown (regardless of its location). The Act also empowers Welsh Ministers, as the licensing authority in Wales, to grant licences to “search and bore for and get petroleum” on behalf of the Crown, in return for rental. Welsh Ministers have a statutory duty to manage the petroleum licences that were issued by the UK Government before 1 October 2018 in accordance with the terms and conditions incorporated into the licence, applicable

legislation, and with the general principles of public law. It is Welsh Government policy to not issue new petroleum licences in Wales.

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

Yours sincerely