



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15378
Date: 31 August 2021

Dear

ATISN 15378

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 August 2021. You asked for the following information:

the amount of money spent by the Welsh Government on first class travel tickets (rail, road, air and sea) for ministers and deputy ministers in each of the last 5 financial years (up to April 2021).

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.

The information you have requested is not collated in a way that records the class of travel taken. The collection of this information would require a review of source travel receipts, which do not always specify the class of travel. Based on a 6 month sample, the estimated number of receipts that would need to be reviewed is 3,180 [The 6 month period used includes the summer recess period where travel activity is usually lower]. Based solely on the 3,180 figure and allowing only one and a half minutes to locate and review each receipt, the time taken would be 79.5 Hours. This figure is based on electronic records which only applies to 40% of the data, the remaining 60% comprises of paper records which will take longer to review. Also, this does not include individual expenses claims that will also have to be reviewed separately. In addition, further records would then need to be reviewed to identify cancellations and or refunds, and this information would then have to be collated into the final data. As even this low estimate of some of the working time involved far exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

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