



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN
Date: 7 September 2021

Dear

ATISN 15046 – part 1

Thank you for your request which I received on 9 August 2021. You asked the following:

- How much money has been spent on food (takeaways, biscuits etc) for Ministers and staff over the past five years?
- Can this be broken down into takeaways, shop bought and catering staff etc?
- Can this also be broken down by year?

I estimate that it will take longer than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your requests. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

The Welsh Government's finance system does not hold the specific information you have requested and as such, officials would need to review transactions/records to respond.

Over the last 5 years, there have been 448,501 transactions booked to either the hospitality nominal or the travel & subsistence nominal on the Welsh Government's finance system (the nominal describes the category of expenditure) which could possibly include purchases of biscuits and takeaways.

I estimate it would take approximately 3 minutes to extract and review each record categorised as hospitality or travel and subsistence to determine whether any information therein was captured by your request – the limit is therefore exceeded (448,501 x 3 minutes /60 = 22,403 hours).

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