



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15862
Date: 24 January 2022

Dear

ATISN 15862 – Cost of Covid

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 22 December 2021. I have provided my response to each of the questions you submitted, as follows:

1. How many cancer-related appointments, treatments and surgeries have been cancelled or postponed since 1st November 2021?
2. How many Covid-19/Coronavirus vaccinations have the Welsh Government procured to date?
3. How many Covid-19/Coronavirus vaccinations have the Welsh Government agreed to procure going forward.

The number of postponed cancer operations is collected as part the health board's monthly report on cancer. It represents management information and is not official statistics. There are concerns about the accuracy of this data and it may not capture all postponed procedures accurately and the data must be treated with caution. The data collection does not include postponed outpatients or follow up appointments, diagnostic procedures or cancer treatments other than surgery. Cancer data is reported with a two month lag due to the 62 day pathway and as such November 2021 data is reported in January 2022.

For November 2021 there were 33 postponed cancer surgeries, 32 of which have already been rescheduled. 16 of these were due to lack of ward or HDU bed and 11 were down to the patient being unwell, unfit for surgery or requiring further tests.

4. Please supply full copies of all Covid-19/Coronavirus agreements/contracts/purchase orders.

We are able to provide a list of all Covid-19/Coronavirus related procurement contracts valued above £25,000 and led by our Corporate Procurement Team and over £2,000 for all contracts led by our ICT & Digital team (ICT/Digital have additional governance measures due to data and compatibility within our estate), this includes details of the successful company name, contract title, duration and total contract value. The information can be found, here <https://documents.hf.wales.gov.uk/id:A38058232/document/versions/published>

I have decided that your request for full copies of all Covid-19 Coronavirus agreements/contracts is exempt from disclosure under Exemption 43 (2) Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The Welsh

Government believes that copies of the contracts/agreements which are made up of the winning bidder's tender submission, should be exempt from disclosure to avoid prejudice of the commercial position of an organisation as doing so would provide an unfair advantage to competitors in both the immediate and longer-term.

Public Interest Test

In order to satisfy the public interest test in relation to the exemption(s), it is necessary to conclude that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information are sufficient to *outweigh* the public interest arguments in favour of release.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

None

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

The Welsh Government believes that copies of the contracts/agreements which are made up of the winning bidder's tender submission should be exempt from disclosure to avoid prejudice of the commercial position of the organisation, as doing so would provide an unfair advantage to competitors in both the immediate and longer-term.

Balance of public interest test

The balance of public interest lies in favour of withholding the information, we have therefore decided to withhold the information requested.

Furthermore, I have concluded that 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 these parts of your request. 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 information you have requested is not held centrally within Welsh Government as such, officials would need to conduct a search for all information held within Welsh Government divisions.

For purchase orders information alone, between April 2020 and March 2021, more than 10,000 purchase orders raised on Welsh Government's finance system

I estimate it would take approximately 3 minutes to extract and review each record to determine whether any information therein was captured by your request – the limit is therefore exceeded (10000x 3 minutes/60 = 500 hours). The limit is further exceeded with any searches that are required in relation to contracts and/or agreements.

You may wish to narrow your request to focus on a specific type of expenditure for example, by business area or theme. In addition, a narrow and defined time period may also bring within the limit.

Please note, that any narrowed request which requires Welsh Government to undertake the exercise to locate, extract and retrieve information from across the organisation may still exceed the appropriate limit. Any redefined questions will be treated as a new request for information.

5. Please supply the total financial sum spent on advertising/campaigning/awareness of the Covid-19/Coronavirus since March 2020.

The total advertising spend for Welsh Government COVID-19 related advertising bought through our media buyers is £4,520,862.84 (this covers March 2020 to December 2021)

6. Please supply the total financial sum spent solely on advertising/campaigning/awareness of the serious adverse effects of the Covid-19/Coronavirus vaccination since March 2020.

Information is not held broken down to the level described.

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,