

07 July 2022

Dear

## **Request for Information – ATISN 16384**

I wrote to you on 30 June regarding your request for information regarding Qatar Airways.

### **Information requested**

You asked for:

1. Why have Qatar Airways flights to Doha not returned to Cardiff airport after COVID restrictions have been relaxed? If the reason is known, when will these flights return?
2. How much money has the Welsh Government provided Qatar airways since the route first opened?

### **Our Response**

I can confirm the Welsh Government holds information captured by your request.

For question one, the route is currently suspended due to the impact of COVID-19. The reinstatement of the air link between Doha and Cardiff is a commercial matter for Qatar Airways. We remain keen to support the reinstatement of the Doha route and we would very much welcome the resumption of the service from Cardiff as soon as is reasonably and commercially viable for the operator, however it is not for the Welsh Government or Welsh Ministers to presume when this would be.

For question 2, I have concluded that the total amount of the Welsh Government's marketing deal with Qatar Airways, is, in fact, exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information otherwise available. The total value of the intended contract is available to view at

[http://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:408018-2017:TEXT:EN:HTML&WT.mc\\_id=RSS-Feed&WT.rss\\_f=Other+Services&WT.rss\\_a=408018-2017&WT.rss\\_ev=a](http://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:408018-2017:TEXT:EN:HTML&WT.mc_id=RSS-Feed&WT.rss_f=Other+Services&WT.rss_a=408018-2017&WT.rss_ev=a).

Section 21 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

### **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](mailto: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