

12 August 2022

Dear

ATISN 16479 - The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 15 July 2022. You asked for the following information about the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales (the Commission):

1. How much money has been allocated to the Commission?
2. How much are Commissioners awarded for their work on the Commission on an annual basis?
3. How much money was set aside for the Community Engagement Fund?
4. Who assesses the Community Engagement Fund?
5. Provision of the Commission's strategic equality plan.
6. Provision of any documents that mention equality, diversity, and inclusion.
7. What percentage of the Commission is over 30?
8. What percentage of the Commission under 30?

Your request has been handled in line with data protection legislation. Further details on this issue can be found on our website at: <https://gov.wales/welsh-government-privacy-notice>

Our response

The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales is independent of the Welsh Government, however we have worked with the Commission Secretariat to provide you with a single response. The information you requested is enclosed at **Annex A**.

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

Annex A - Our response

1. How much money has been allocated to The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales (the Commission)?

£1.1m in 2022-23 and also in each of the two subsequent financial years for the work associated with the Commission, and for any follow-on activity arising from the Commission's work.

2. How much are Commissioners awarded for their work on the Commission on an annual basis?

Commissioners are not awarded annually. They are remunerated for the days they undertake Commission duties. The Co-chairs are remunerated at a rate of £300 per day and members of the Commission at a rate of £250 per day.

3. How much money was set aside for the Community Engagement Fund?

£50,000.

4. Who assesses the Community Engagement Fund?

The assessment panel will consist of civil servants from the Commission Secretariat and officials with grants delivery expertise.

5. Provision of the Commission's strategic equality plan.

The Commission falls under the remit of the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government strategic equality plan can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-04/strategic-equality-plan-equality-aims-objectives-actions-2020-2024.pdf>

6. Provision of any documents that mention equality, diversity, and inclusion.

From our preliminary assessment we estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer 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.

Your request asks us to search for, locate and extract all documents that mention these keywords, since the formation of the Welsh Government, across all policy areas and on any matter. We would thus need to extract all paper files held by Welsh Government and review them all, as well as search for these keywords across all electronic files.

To give an indication of the scale of this work, we have searched for the keyword “equality” on electronic records stored since 2011. Our search identified 905,625 documents that contain this keyword.

It is not even sufficient just to provide all documents that match the keywords. Each document would need to be manually reviewed to ensure that the keyword found carries the captured meaning of your request. It is reasonable to suppose that you are requesting information on equality, diversity and inclusion as related to statutory duties and matters of policy, but not equality in terms of mathematical comparisons.

Extracting and reading a document is a manual process, and we have established it takes in the order of one to five minutes to extract and read documents to understand their scope. Even using the lower bound of one minute, and for electronic records alone, just to find documents that relate to equality, we estimate the amount of work required to comply with this request is in the order of 629 days, which is vastly in excess of the 24-hour limit.

Consequently, we have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

7. What percentage of the commission is over 30?

100%

8. What percentage of the commission under 30?

0%