

25 August 2022

Dear

Information requested FOI ATISN 16588

Thank you for your request which we received on 4 August 2022.

You asked for:

Sources of evidence being used to inform policy on elective home educators in Wales

Our response

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.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require carrying out an examination (as described below) of in excess of 5,000 documents. Consequently, we have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

We have reviewed our electronic files and have identified potentially 5,000 plus documents that may contain this information. We have estimated that it would take an officer approximately 5 mins to open each document, review its contents to identify if it contains the information you seek and to mark it for disclosure. This process does not take into account the time taken to redact any document as appropriate or seek 3rd party approval for disclosure. This would mean that this process would take 5,000 by 5 mins equalling 416 hours. Section 12 of FOIA allows the Welsh Government to refuse a request for general information in circumstances where it estimates that it would exceed the "appropriate limit" to either comply with the request. The appropriate limit is currently set at £600 for the Welsh Government which is calculated on staff taking more than 24 hours (at a standard rate of £25 per hour) to comply with the request.

Therefore as processing this request would exceed the appropriate limit for handling this request, we are unable to provide this information.

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.

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