

14 October 2022

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 16649

Thank you for your request for information dated 12 September.

Your Request

You have asked for the following information regarding the A465 widening scheme:

- 1. Could you please provide a detailed list of the public funds which have been paid and to which organisation**

Could you please return your response in an excel document in 2 columns

Column A - Organisation Name

Column B - Amount paid/compensated

Our response

As your request currently stands, I believe it will be very time consuming to deal with. Requesting a broad scope of information (the detailed list of public funds paid to organisations following the A465 scheme) as described over a long timeframe makes the search very difficult and time consuming. We hold data for all 6 sections of the A465, however the older sections will take more time to locate as some of the records date back to 2004-2005 which pre-dates our current filing system.

The information requested is stored on our electronic filing system where we store our financial spreadsheets for each road scheme. This consists of 6 spreadsheets for the A465, one for each section, including more than 1,000 claims across the 6 sections of the A465. Setting our systems in this way, and in line with our Records Management policy, enables effective delivery and will not necessarily lend themselves to being easily interrogated for generic requests for information.

A general search using the search terms 'A465 scheme compensation' yielded almost 24,743 results. At an average estimate of one minute per result to check whether it is relevant to your request and then extracting the relevant information, it would take one official at in excess of four working days. Some information will also be held on paper files and would take a substantial amount of time to locate, retrieve and extract the data you have requested.

If I estimate it will take more than 24 working hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it, the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allow

me to refuse to deal with it. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600, representative of the estimated cost if taking over 24 working hours of time.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope, however, it is important to note that most of the information you have requested contains personal data and will likely be exempt from publication under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act, personal information. If you do refine your request, 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.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing

- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please contact: Data Protection Officer, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, CARDIFF, CF10 3NQ or e-mail DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

The address for the Information Commissioner's Office is: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Phone numbers are 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113. Electronic contact details are at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/>.

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely