

3 October 2022

Dear

Information requested FOI ATISN 16656

Thank you for your request which we received on 13 September. You asked for:

copies of all communications, written and verbal between

A) Kirsty Williams the former Minister for Education and the aides dealing with the proposals on legislation on EHE under the previous administration and

B) Jeremy Miles, the present Minister for Education and the aides subsequently dealing with the proposals on legislation on EHE under the present administration, for the period of May 2020 to May 2022, relating to the transfer of responsibility of the proposals for statutory guidance on EHE from the previous administration to the present administration

You have subsequently provided the following in response to our request for clarity:

By "aides" one reasonably means "staff and civil servants working as assistants to the respective Ministers or within the relevant Department of Education at the Senedd in dealing with the proposed changes in legislation on Elective Home Education in Wales".

Our response

We have identified potentially 3,201 documents that may contain information relevant to the first part of this request, but this is from a preliminary search involving key known officials who have been involved in this policy area and does not necessarily cover the totality of what we may hold; to confirm, this figure represents 'communications' rather than 'letters' and covers all external and internal communications that 'relate' to home education policy and guidance development.

We have identified potentially 1,644 documents that may contain information relevant to the second part of this request, but this is from a preliminary search involving key known officials who have been involved in this policy and does not necessarily the totality of what we may hold; to confirm, this figure represents 'communications' rather than 'letters' and covers all external and internal communications that 'relate' to home education policy and guidance development.

The information that you seek could potentially be in these documents and each document would need to be interrogated to ascertain whether it refers to your request clarified above.

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.

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 as it is currently presented. You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope or by being more specific about the particular information you 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,