01 November 2022

Dear

Information requested - **ATISN 16725**

Thank you for your request which I received on 06 October 2022. You asked for:

- Names of retail and industrial capital projects/schemes in Wales, along with estimates of their economic impact in terms of the number of jobs created.

Our response

From my preliminary assessment I 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 collation of existing economic impact assessment reports (some of which will be commercially confidential) from a number of different teams. Where impact assessments have not taken place, projects/schemes would need to be identified then assessed individually for their impact in terms of jobs created**.** Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

Further details on the cost estimate we used to inform this decision is below:

- Existing impact assessments held by the Economy, Treasury and Constitution team would need to be located and collated. This process has been assessed as likely to take 'many days' (we have assumed five days or 120 hours). A similar process would need to take place for impact assessments held by Economic Analysis and Evidence.

- We estimate that, <u>in just one of the relevant spending areas</u>, there are in excess of 100 projects/schemes that have been approved and involve some form of capital expenditure, over the last five financial years. On the basis that even a very basic impact assessment on a single project, able to produce a jobs estimate, would take three hours, this means that this element of the request would take around 300 hours to complete (i.e. 100 multiplied by three hours). This does not take account of the time required to track down the information held by other spending areas or the time to assess those projects/schemes held by them. Additional time would also be required to assess the commercial confidentiality of the information involved.

- Overall, combining the work required to collate existing impact assessments and the creation of new impact assessments, we estimate that the request would take, as a minimum, in excess of 540 hours (120 plus 120 plus 300 hours) to complete, significantly exceeding the appropriate limit.

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. However, you should be aware that even refining the ask to projects/schemes in a single year would exceed the appropriate limit (i.e. over 540 hours for five financial years would suggest a completion time of greater than 100 hours for a single financial year's projects/schemes).

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