



Our ref: ATISN 16859  
Date: 8 December 2022

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**ATISN 16859**

Thank you for your request which I received on 11 November 2022. You asked for the following information:

*Who is paying for First Minister Mark Drakeford to attend the World Cup in Qatar?  
Who is in charge of the Senedd in his absence? How much of public funds will it cost to send him there?*

The First Minister is not in “charge of the Senedd”. The Senedd is the Welsh Parliament while the First Minister is head of the Welsh Government and remains so, even when not in the country. The First Minister remained contactable during the trip

For the remainder of your request about costs, some of the information you have requested is already available. Information has been published in response to ATISN 16831 and can be found here: [FOI release 16831: World Cup | GOV.WALES](#)

However, I have concluded that any remaining information you requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), information intended for future publication. Details of Ministerial visits overseas and gifts are published in line with the Ministerial code and this information will be published with the next tranche of information in 2023. Details of Ministerial gifts are also published as part of the same information.

Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

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 e-mail: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto: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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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 1**

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure**

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

### **Public interest arguments against disclosure**

This information is published as a requirement in the Ministerial code. This information will be published along with details of other Ministerial visits overseas according to the usual schedule. The information for the financial year 22/23 will be published after March next year.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and it is a long-standing requirement that details of Ministerial visits overseas, including the costs, are published in line with the Ministerial code.

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-5th-assembly>