

30 November 2022

Dear

**ATISN 16810 – Funding for Clwb Ifor Bach / Clwb Music Cyf**

**Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 31 October 2022. You asked for:

- Information about non Covid funding and grants which have been awarded to Clwb Ifor Bach c.i.c and Clwb Music Cyf from May of 2020 up to 31 October 2022.
- Any available information or correspondence relating to how the grants or funding were awarded.

**Our response**

I have located information captured by this request, that is, funding for Clwb Ifor Bach granted solely in relation to the Swn Festival, and not their wider business. I have concluded that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Full reasoning for applying this exemptions is given at Annex A to this letter.

**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.of.information@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.of.information@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

## **ANNEX A**

### **ATISN 13379 – Consideration For and Against Disclosure of Information**

Decisions relating to non-disclosure have been taken with due consideration of the exemption identified under Section 43(2), commercial interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 43 is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption and in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it. I have therefore given consideration to the effects of disclosure of the information, to the world at large, as the information is made available to anybody and everybody, not just the requestor. As such, when considering your request I have considered the wider effects of disclosure rather than any personal interest you may have in being provided with the information.

#### **Section 43(2) – commercial interests**

The exemption states:

- (2) *Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).*

#### *Prejudice Test*

Revealing the information would be likely to prejudice Clwb Ifor Bach's commercial interests should it be disclosed at this point in time. The information would reveal commercially sensitive information not otherwise publicly available and which, if disclosed would be likely to prejudice their service offering and future strategy. publishing the amount of Welsh Government grant funding could give other potential commercial partners a negotiating advantage over that company, and weaken their commercial position.

#### *Public Interest Test For Disclosure*

There is a public interest in openness and transparency within government, particularly in terms of ensuring transparent and accountable government by disclosing how the Welsh Government spends public money and that the money is invested wisely.

#### *Public Interest Against Disclosure*

Whilst the withheld information would be of interest to competitors, we do not believe it would be of sufficient interest to the wider public. Representations from Clwb Ifor Bach state that they are concerned that releasing the information will have a negative impact on current and ongoing funding discussions and harm their ability to create a viable strategy for future growth.