

30 November 2022

Dear

ATISN 16822 – Qatar Office Activity

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 November 2022. You asked for:

- 1. Please list what activities the 'Welsh Government Qatar' (QBBF) office has carried out to promote human rights within Qatar between August 2018 and October 2022.*
- 2. Please list what activities have the 'Welsh Government Qatar' (QBBF) office has carried out to promote LGBTQ+ rights within Qatar between August 2018 and October 2022.*
- 3. Please list what activities have the 'Welsh Government Qatar' (QBBF) office has carried out to promote women's rights within Qatar between August 2018 and October 2022.*
- 4. Please list what activities have the 'Welsh Government Qatar' (QBBF) office has carried out to voice concerns over modern slavery within Qatar between August 2018 and October 2022.*

Our response

In my response of 02 November, I clarified that the Welsh Government's Qatar office is not part of the QBBF (Qatar British Business Forum); therefore, any activities carried out by the QBBF are not within scope of this request.

The Welsh Government has a one-person office in Qatar, which opened in 2018. It is a business focussed operation, with the member of staff recruited locally to focus on our trade and investment support for Wales. It reports into our office in Dubai. The office celebrated International Women's Day in March 2021 by inviting contacts in Qatar to join a virtual panel session to mark the day. The office has not been involved in other external activity to promote the issues raised in your request. The issues you raise would instead be covered by the UK Embassy and by Welsh Government Ministers or senior officials when in Qatar, which they have done for example whilst showcasing our values at the recent FIFA 2022 Qatar World Cup.

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