

5 January 2023

Dear

ATISN 16935 – International Trade Staff and Qualifications

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

1. How many civil servants working within the Welsh government have a role which is focused upon international trade and exports, or trade policy?
2. Since 2016, how many civil servants, while in an international trade and exports, or trade policy-focused role, have undertaken as part of their learning and development a civil service funded or part-funded: (i) Master's degree; (ii) postgraduate diploma; or (iii) postgraduate certificate?
 - a. What were the titles of those courses?
 - b. Which universities (or other higher education providers) delivered each of those courses?
 - c. Were they online, blended learning or in-person delivered courses?
 - d. How many were undertaken in each year since, and including, 2016?
3. What qualifications at Levels 4 and above (including postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate certificates and masters degrees), are most commonly funded or part-funded, to develop or strengthen domain knowledge for civil servants in international trade, export or trade policy focused roles?
 - i. What are the titles of those qualification?
 - ii. With which specific higher education institutions or other providers do those civil servants most commonly study those courses?
4. Who, within the civil service, authorises a civil servant in a trade-focused role to undertake, as part of their training/learning and development, an employer funded or part-funded: (i) Master's degree; (ii) postgraduate diploma; or (iii) postgraduate certificate?
5. What formal, internal training and development or other structured learning interventions are used to equip civil servants with domain knowledge to perform roles in international trade, exports, or trade policy?

The information you have requested is below:

27 Welsh Government civil servants currently have an international trade/trade policy focussed role. None of the current civil servants in these roles have undertaken a masters, post-graduate diploma or post-graduate certificate in international trade or related subjects since 2016. All formal training requests require authorisation by the line manager and relevant Deputy Director.

All members of staff in business facing roles are members of the Institute of Export and International Trade, awarded on the basis of their breadth of experience over a number of years in the field of international trade, and/or prior relevant qualifications. Through this membership, staff can access a range of professional qualifications, training and online resources.

Alongside this, the International Trade Profession is established within UK civil service, including the Welsh Government. The profession provides access for staff to career and learning and development opportunities to further embed a breadth of trade knowledge and expertise across Government departments.

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

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely