

11 January 2023

Dear

**ATISN 16951**

Thank you for your request which I received on 9 December 2022. You asked for the following information:

*A list of all domains and if possible the zone file of the gov.wales and llyw.cymru TLDs.*

The list of domains held with Welsh Government that you requested is attached.

The information you requested regarding the zone files, which we hold, is being withheld in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act 2000, under the applicable exemptions in Sections 21, 31 and 43 of the Act.

With regard to Section 21: Information Accessible by Other Means, the information intended for public use is already published within the Domain Name System and can be readily obtained by accessing well known resource records such as the MX and NS records, or by browsing the websites which are readily discoverable via web search tools.

With regard to Section 31: Prevention or Detection of Crime, while we do not practice "security through obscurity", we believe that disclosure of additional information held within the zone files is likely to provide a malicious third party with information which may assist them in carrying out a criminal act against a public body, particularly when put together with other information.

As qualified exemptions under the Fol Act 2000, we must give consideration to whether the public interest favouring disclosure is greater than the public interest in maintaining the exemption. The public interest means what is in the best interests of the public not what is of interest to the public.

We have considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. There are a number of public interest arguments that weigh in favour of disclosing the information you have sought:

- The general presumption of openness that the Act aspires to;
- General interest from certain sections of the public, for example technology professionals, in the configuration and technology services used by Welsh Government.

However, there are also public interest arguments against disclosure:

- Releasing the requested information could prejudice our current or future security against cyber attack

The public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the requested information and we are therefore withholding the information.

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