

16 January 2023

Dear

## **ATISN 16974 – World Cup**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your email of 15 December 2022, in which you asked for the following information:

#### Part 1:

- A breakdown of ALL costs of sending a delegation to the Qatar World Cup by cost category e.g. flights, hotels, advertising etc...
- A list of all individuals and companies who received any funding towards their costs of going to Qatar. Amount per person.
- A breakdown of all costs incurred by Mark Drakeford and Vaughan Gething in attending Qatar including the names of hotels they stayed at and the class of flight tickets.

#### Part 2:

- A list of all meetings that Mark Drakeford attended stating the organisation and individuals who attended each meeting and whether or not gay rights and the treatment of gay people in Qatar was raised by Mark Drakeford.
- A list as per the above but for meetings attended by Vaughan Gething.

### **Our response**

The information you requested is as follows:

#### Part 1:

- Information regarding the travel costs and accommodation for Welsh Government officials, and the First Minister and Minister for Economy's visit to the World Cup have previously been disclosed and can be found at [ATISN-16831](#), [ATISN-16855](#), [ATISN-16885](#) and [ATISN-16972](#).
- The Minister for Economy announced the 19 projects awarded funding through the World Cup Partner Support Fund on 27 September 2022. You can view the Written Statement here: [Written Statement: World Cup Partner Support Fund \(27 September 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

#### Part 2:

Some of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure and I have set out my reasonings at **Annex A**.

- Details of Ministerial meetings are exempt under Section 21 and Section 22 of the Freedom of information Act 2000 – information accessible by other means and information intended for future publication. A register of all ministerial meetings and engagements is published online every quarter in accordance with the Ministerial Code and can be found here [Ministerial meetings and engagements | GOV.WALES](#). The information for the financial year 2022-23 will be published after March 2023.

## 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](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.

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

Yours sincerely

## **Reasons for Exempting Information**

### **Section 21: Information accessible to applicant by other means**

The exemption states:

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) —

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

### **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 release**

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

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

This information is published as a requirement of 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 2022-23 will be published after March 2023. 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 links: [Ministerial Code information publication: 5th assembly | GOV.WALES](#) and <https://www.gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-5th-assembly>.