

3 February 2023

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 17025

I wrote to you on 20 January regarding your request for information.

Your request

You asked for the following information regarding the decision to build Hangar 1 in St Athan:

1. The cost of the (Hangar 1) building
2. Where the funding came from
3. The reason for such a large unit that remains empty
4. At what cost to the public purse
5. Was there a need for this building and if so, why does it remain unused

Our Response

I can confirm we hold the information you have requested.

For questions one, two and four, the cost of the building was £1.8m funded through capital investment by the Welsh Government.

For question three, the unit's size is dictated by its use as an aircraft hangar. Pre-Covid demand from the aviation sector, specifically the Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) element was very high with interest expressed by several organisations for such a facility based on narrow bodied aircraft. Recovery of the sector continues and forecast growth in Europe is reflected in the demand for the building such that the Welsh Government's agent Savills have released the following into the market: "Due to the interest received in leasing the Rubb Hangar (KR1) at Bro Tathan West, we have been instructed by Welsh Government to undertake an informal tender exercise to select a suitable occupier for the facility. The hangar will be available to let from 1 June 2023."

For your final question, terms have been agreed for a temporary occupation of the building by an existing company on site until June 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

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