

17 February 2023

Dear

**ATISN 17073**

Thank you for your request which I received on 23 January.

You asked for:

Copies of all correspondence to and from the then Environment Minister Hannah Blythyn AM and the following organisations between 3rd November 2017 and 13th December 2018:

RSPB  
RSPCA  
Animal Aid  
League Against Cruel Sports  
Humane Society International UK  
Hunt Saboteurs Association

**Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

I have decided that some of the information in the enclosed list is exempt from disclosure under section *S40 Personal information* of the Freedom of Information Act of the Environmental Information Regulations and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex 1 to this letter.

**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,

### **Documents enclosed**

- 18 01 30 Invitation to visit Yyns-hir woodlands
- 18 06 06 Invitation to meet at Royal Welsh Show
- 18 09 27 Letter from RSPB regarding GWfG
- 18 11 16 Email from RSPB regarding Brexit deal
- 18 12 11 Response from Hannah Blythyn, Minister for Environment

## **Annex 1**

### **Application of exemptions/exceptions**

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information:

The names, direct email addresses, phone numbers and fax numbers of the people mentioned.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section *S40 Personal information* of the Freedom of Information Act of the Environmental Information Regulations and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

The Welsh Government believes that the personal information of these people should be exempt from disclosure.

### **Public Interest Test**

In order to satisfy the public interest test in relation to the exemption, it is necessary to conclude that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information are sufficient to *outweigh* the public interest arguments in favour of release.

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

Full disclosure of all information. Avoiding the appearance of withholding information.

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

The individuals involved have not been asked to nor have given their consent to release their personal contact information. The withheld information is not key to the records and does not affect the understanding or completeness of the records being released.

### **Balance of public interest test**

On balance, the public interest of releasing the information does not outweigh the need to protect this personal information. I have decided to release all the correspondence requested and to withhold the personal information mentioned.