

17 March 2023

Dear

ATISN 17176 – FOI Farmland

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 February 2023. You asked for:

- Over the past 10 years of available data, the hectareage of farmland in Wales that was used to produced food (cultivated arable and permanent grazing) which has now been repurposed for (a) housing, (b) rewilding, (c) forestry, (d) energy generation (biofuels, photovoltaics etc), (e) roads and infrastructure, and (f) leisure (eg golf courses etc).
AND
- The percentages these represent of total farmland then and now.

You also asked for:

- Of the remaining land used for food production, what yield reduction the Welsh Government is expecting due to changing farming practices that seek balanced outcomes rather than optimal yields.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

However, you may find useful the Welsh Government's annually published [Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture](#), which is published alongside a public dataset with data on land use, livestock and farm labour statistics since 1998, as well as some historical data extending beyond that.

In respect to future yield expectations, the Welsh Government does not have any 'expectations' of future yield production, but we have speculated in respect of possible future agricultural production in our future land use scenarios work. You can see our work on our [FABLE Calculator](#) as part of the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP). For this land use modelling, future demand for things like housing and urban development were taken from the Welsh Government's [Future Trends Report](#).

Additionally, the Welsh Government has also considered future land capability for agricultural production as displayed on our [Agricultural Land Classification: Predictive Map](#). This analysis has not been incorporated into the future land use modelling to date.

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