

14 April 2023

Dear

ATISN 17279 – Funding of Welsh Racecourses

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 15 March 2023. You asked for:

How much money was granted to Welsh racecourses, with particular attention to Chepstow Racecourse and the Welsh Grand National. You also asked for the actual amount taken out of public funds to subsidise Welsh horse racing.

Our response

In our acknowledgement letter we explained that we would be unable to process this request without a specific timeframe, and we asked for clarification on this. No clarification has been received.

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require searching Welsh Government files since its inception, for all grants in any area of Welsh Government to Welsh racecourses. Grants could be made for many reasons, in multiple policy areas, and would not be restricted solely to racing, but could be for any purpose that the racecourses might have applied for. The time taken to search all such records (both paper and electronic records) since the inception of Welsh Government in all policy areas, and then to read through files discovered to decide whether they held information in scope, would vastly exceed the 24 hour limit. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

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