

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 17386

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 20 March.

Your request

You asked:

How much money, either as grants or contracts, has been awarded by the Welsh Government to Sustrans each year since 2015.

Our Response

I can confirm that we hold the information you have requested. Please see the table below for the information we hold on grants, contracts and purchase orders, that have been awarded by the Welsh Government to Sustrans since 2015. Please note that any funding related to secondments has been redacted:

Grants

Year	Amount Awarded	Comments
2015	£338,407.90	
2016	£251,828.44	
2017	£215,000.00	
2018	£163,067.07	£24,309.05 was not claimed.
2019-2020	£1,151,076.76	
2021	£480,000.00	
2022	£930,000.00	This includes £250,000.00 for 2023-24
Total	£3,530,172.17	

Contracts

Year	Amount Awarded	Contract
2015	£79,000.00	Short-term contract 'Bike It' Project
2015-20	£1,282,020.30	Active Travel Promotion in Schools
2016-17	£7,000.00	Integrated Network Maps Project
2020-23	£1,500,000.00	Active Travel Promotion in Schools
Total	£2,751,990.30	

Purchase Orders

Purchase Order Name	Amount Awarded
Active Travel Promotion in Schools 22-23	£375,000.00
Active Travel Promotion in Schools 21-22	£375,000.00
Active Travel Promotion in Schools 20-21	£375,000.00

Active Travel Promotion in Schools	£141,169.86
Review of AT Delivery Guidance	£11,679.00
AT in Rural Communities Workshops	£400.00
Integrated Network Maps Project	£7,000.00
Active Travel Promotion in Schools	£904,820.44
Bike It Interim Contract	£79,000.00
Sustrans Tunnels Scoping Project	£23,580.00
Total	£2,292,649.30

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: Freedomofinformation@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

ANNEX A

Consideration For and Against Disclosure of Information

Decisions relating to non-disclosure have been taken with due consideration of the exemption identified under Section 43(2), commercial interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 43 is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption and in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it. I have therefore given consideration to the effects of disclosure of the information to the world at large, as the information is made available to anybody and everybody, not just the requestor. As such, when considering your request I have considered the wider effects of disclosure rather than any personal interest you may have in being provided with the information.

Section 43(2) – commercial interests

The exemption states:

- (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The Welsh Government (WG) is of the view that revealing the financial information in relation to Swansea's application would damage their commercial interests should it be disclosed as it will cause harm to them regarding future competitive tenders.

Disclosing the information would also give WG a disadvantage in future dealings for any potential future purchases. It would place WG at a distinct commercial advantage when negotiating and therefore prejudice our ability to engage in future commercial activities. It would also allow any other potential purchasers an insight into our methodology and proprietary information. We do not believe that facilitating this type of unfair competitive advantage would be in the wider public interest.

Public Interest Test For Disclosure

The Welsh Government recognises the public interest in openness and transparency within government, particularly in terms of ensuring an accountable government by disclosing how the Welsh Government spends public money and that the money is invested wisely. These same considerations also apply to the information of other public authorities.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

Disclosure of this information would reveal information that would undermine the competitive tender process, creating an unequal system that would disadvantage them in the process, and this in turn would cause a loss to the authority and to the public purse.

Whilst the withheld information would be of interest to other competitors, we do not believe it would be of sufficient interest to the wider public to countervail the public

interest in withholding the information. Release of the information would also allow potential competitors access to a level of detail that they otherwise wouldn't have, so as to enable them to obtain a commercial advantage by understanding and potentially copying the methodology, their processes and business case. I do not believe that facilitating this type of unfair competitive advantage would be in the wider public interest.

I am aware that, as a general rule, the sensitivity of information is likely to reduce over time; therefore the age of the information, or timing of the request, may be relevant in determining whether to apply an exemption, or where the public interest may lie. In this case, however, the information captured is very much current information. I believe therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.