

15 June 2023

Dear

ATISN 17444

Thank you for your request which I received on 1 May 2023. I have set out my response to each of the questions you submitted, as follows:

- The amount returned to Westminster and Brussels, to date, since the creation of the Welsh Government.

It is not possible from the question you have submitted to determine the exact information sought. For context:

Westminster

Over the 23-year period, it would be possible to identify the amount of funding that was allocated to Welsh Government which, as a result of not being spent, was returned.

Please could you confirm if this is the information you are seeking.

Brussels

The position relating to funding from Brussels is different in that European Structural Funds Programmes are approved by the European Commission and this funding is only drawdown from them after individual project claims have been processed and verified by the Welsh European Funding Office.

Please note that given the potential volume of information, if your request continues to span a 23-year period, I believe to respond would exceed the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

In light of the above, I would be grateful if you could provide further clarification on the information sought - for example are you seeking the return of funding information in a specific area of policy combined with a more defined time period?

If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request for information.

- The total spend to date on Cardiff Airport including purchase costs.

I confirm we hold the information requested. I have concluded, however, that it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The information is available at: [cardiff-airport-eng-final3_6.pdf \(wao.gov.uk\)](#) and [History - Cardiff Airport \(senedd.wales\)](#)

You may wish to note one variant since the publication of the papers in the link above, the £42.6m Rescue and Restructure grant investment drawn down / paid out to the airport to date is £29.2m, in line with the airports scheduled draw down for the grant.

- The amount invested in the Welsh film industry to date.

Since Creative Wales was established in January 2020, £16.3 million of production funding has been successfully awarded to 31 projects generating over £187.1 million of production spend into the Welsh economy.

- The amount invested in the Gilestone Farm purchase to date.

The property was purchased by Welsh Government on 31 March 2022 for £4.25m (no VAT to be charged) which was slightly below the market value independently certified by our consultant surveyors (Knight Frank) at £4.325m (ex VAT).

- The amount invested in the 'Green Man' festival to date.

Zero.

- The amount invested to date in the M4 relief road.

Information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The spending on the M4 Relief Road is already in the public domain here: [ATISN 15189](#) (and confirmed there has been no further spending).

- The amount invested in the racetrack project to date.

Information on Circuit for Wales is also exempt under Section 21 - information is in the public domain: [Eich cyf \(gov.wales\)](#) (ATISN 17128).

- The number of staff using the Welsh Government building daily at Aberystwyth and the annual running costs.

The annual running costs for the Welsh Government Aberystwyth office for the 2022/23 financial year is £1,344,896. The average daily occupancy of Welsh Government staff is 42 (15% capacity) but this fluctuates on a daily basis and can be as high as 87 (32% capacity).

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 e-mail: 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely