

21 November 2023

Dear

ATISN 19223

Thank you for your request which was received on 27 October 2023. I have included at Annex 1, the questions you submitted and my response to each.

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

Annex 1

1. Whether the Welsh Government operates any a) Hikvision equipment and b) Hikvision CCTV cameras on its properties

Yes

2. Whether the Welsh Government operates any a) Dahua equipment and b) Dahua CCTV cameras on its properties

No

3. How many CCTV cameras manufactured by Hikvision are operated on Welsh Government properties?

The total number in place across Welsh Government sites is 497.

4. How many CCTV cameras manufactured by Dahua are operated on Welsh Government properties?

N/A

5. If the Welsh Government is in the process of stripping Hikvision / Dahua cameras out of Welsh Government properties

We review the security cameras used as part of our CCTV systems as part of their regular maintenance cycle, which is leading to the installation of a replacement CCTV system. We take security and ethical factors into consideration during any procurement process. Any outright ban on the use of particular systems would need to be implemented at a UK level.

6. How much the Welsh Government has spent on a) Hikvision equipment and b) Hikvision CCTV cameras, for every financial year from 2012/13 to 2022/23

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than 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 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.

You have requested information over a 10-year period.

Associated costs are invoiced on a monthly basis – one consolidated invoice supported by an excel spreadsheet containing the backing data for the charges.

The information for our Administrative Estate is sorted by building but it is not broken down any further e.g. by maintenance category (such as electrical; plumbing; security systems etc). We receive one invoice per month = 12 per annum = 120 invoices for the 10 years between 2012/13 and 2022/23. The backing data for each monthly invoice is quite sizeable – Cathays Park data alone can be c. 60-70 lines of information.

Therefore, we would have to locate, extract and retrieve information from 120 backing data spreadsheets, line by line to identify any costs for security systems / CCTV in order to respond to the FOI.

At an estimate of taking 1 minute to investigate each document to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it would take in excess of 24 hrs for this exercise on the Cathays Park building alone. The limit is further exceeded when considering other locations and any similar exercise.

As this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process that part of your request. You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain with a limit time period – but please note, a similar exercise as outlined would still be required and could still exceed the limit.

Any refinement of your question will be treated as a new request.

7. How much the Welsh Government has spent on a) Dahua equipment and b) Dahua CCTV cameras, for every financial year from 2012/13 to 2022/23

N/A