

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 19359

Thank you for your request for information dated 30 November 2023.

Your request:

You asked for the following information relating to the Acquisition of Cardiff Airport:

1. Monies paid initially. Additional monies provided by the Welsh government since acquisition. Detail of loans written off. Current/ongoing funding.
2. Forward strategy and rationale as to why the Welsh government are continuing to support a loss making business. Why are there so few daily flights? Is this part of your 'green' agenda?

Our Response:

1. Monies paid initially. Additional monies provided by the Welsh government since acquisition. Detail of loans written off. Current/ongoing funding:

Since 2013, the Welsh Government has invested the following in the Airport:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Acquisition and Equity Investment: | £67.9m |
| Loans | £69.8m ¹ |
| Grants | £38.9m |
| TOTAL investment to date: | £176.6m |

Acquisition and Equity Investments:

The airport was purchased for £52m in 2013. At the point of acquisition, an equity investment of £3.3m was also made.

In 2018, the Welsh Government made an equity investment of £6m.

On 26 October, the Welsh Government made a further equity investment of £6.6m; [Written Statement: Cardiff Airport Next Generation Security \(NGS\) Scanners \(26 October 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Grants:

In 2016, the Welsh Government provided grant funding of £169k to support the airport's safety and security.

In 2019, the Welsh Government grant funded the replacement of e-Passport Gates at a cost of £523k.

¹ Includes total accrued interest of £10.4m as at 6 May 2021.

In March 2021, the Welsh Government agreed a Rescue and Restructuring Plan grant of £42.6m. £38.2m of this funding has been drawn down to date with the balance to be drawn down by the end of December 2024.

At the same time as the award of the £42.6m rescue and recovery grant package, WG wrote off £42.6m of CIAL's £69.8m total commercial loan debt (including accrued interest). The remaining outstanding debt following the write off was £27.2m as at 6 May 2021.

2. Forward strategy and rationale as to why the Welsh government are continuing to Support a loss making business. Why are there so few daily flights? Is this part of your 'green' agenda?

The current strategy for Cardiff Airport can be accessed here: <https://cardiff-airport.com/masterplan-cwl/our-airport-2040-cwl/>

It remains this Government's policy objective to secure the long-term future of Cardiff airport and thereby protect the value of the Welsh Government's investment in the airport. It is vital for Wales's economic development that we have strong international connectivity to and from Wales as well as inviting tourists.

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