

19 March 2024

Dear

ATISN 20325

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 March. You asked for the following information:

For the last 3 tax year's (23/22, 22/21, 21/20) please provide the total cost of:

- *Total number of staff hired with responsibility for freedom of information requests, (full time equivalent).*
- *Total salary costs for staff with responsibility for freedom of information requests.*
- *Total for all other costs associated with handling freedom of information requests.*
- *Total number of freedom of information requests received, and total number responded with the requested information.*

For your first three questions, I can confirm that the Welsh Government does not hold recorded information of that description. The activities set out in your questions are essentially carried out by all staff within the organisation, based on their specific role and business needs that arise. It is not possible to provide a figure of how many, at any particular point in time, are carrying out these functions as their main activity, or to quantify the total costs involved in dealing with information requests in any given year.

The internal central support teams that have these activities as part of their corporate role are the Information Rights Unit (who are a team of four people) and the Departmental Knowledge Information Managers (four people). However, none of these deal exclusively with freedom of information requests.

For your last question, the figures are:

Financial Year: 2020-21:

Requests Received: 1084
All Information Provided: 515
Some Information Provided: 147
No Information Provided: 90
No Information Held: 251
Withdrawn: 14
Exceed Appropriate Limit: 65
Vexatious: 0
Repeated: 2

Financial Year: 2021-22:

Requests Received: 1122
All Information Provided: 493
Some Information Provided: 162
No Information Provided: 87
No Information Held: 333

Withdrawn: 8
Exceed Appropriate Limit: 37
Vexatious: 1
Repeated: 1

Financial Year: 2022-23:

Requests Received: 1069
All Information Provided: 536
Some Information Provided: 151
No Information Provided: 88
No Information Held: 264
Withdrawn: 2
Exceed Appropriate Limit: 27
Vexatious: 1
Repeated: 0

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