

24 April 2024

Dear

ATISN 20390 – Request for information

Thank you for your request which was received on 24 March 2024. You asked for the following information:

1. What Minister and Ministerial Department will be responsible for this Grant?
2. How much of the grant money will be spent of investigating rights of way wrongly recorded on the Definitive Map by mistake/wrongdoing?
3. How much of the grant money will be spent on protecting private homes from criminal activities from Users of a rights of way?
4. How many additional Rights of Ways are added to the Definitive Map year on year?
5. On how many disputed public rights of way have been recorded in Wales?
6. How many rights of way decisions have been overturned, and deleted from the Definitive Map?
7. What investigations are undertaken when actual evidence is within the Welsh Parliament Cathays with-held / non-disclosed at the time of the Decision Letter and a wrong decision was made?
8. What investigations are made when vital mistakes were made by PINS Wales which also should have prevented validation of a claim?

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

Our Response

Questions 1,2 & 3

During 2022-25, the Welsh Government is funding a 3-year capital Access Improvement Grant, totalling £5.6 million, to Local and National Park Authorities that have public rights of way responsibilities. This sits within the portfolio of Huw Iranca Davies MS, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs. The Designated Landscapes and Countryside Access Branch, within the Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group, are responsible for the administration of the grant

The grant is allocated via formula, giving each recipient an allocation. Projects are based on an authority's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and deliver against one of five 'Primary Focus' areas:

PF1: Physical improvements,

PF2: Improvements to information and promotion,

PF3: Improvements to access/egress points to open access land and green space,

PF4: Improvements to accessing water for water related recreation,

PF5: Increasing under-represented groups' access to the outdoors.

There are currently zero projects 'investigating rights of way wrongly recorded on the Definitive Map by mistake / wrongdoing' or 'protecting private homes from criminal activities from Users of a rights of way crossing through private homes'.

Questions 4,5 & 6

Please see enclosed table.

Questions 7 & 8

Please see Planning and Environment Decisions Wales' [complaints process](#). [The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales](#) can be asked to investigate complaints about maladministration in the handling of a case. All decisions made are subject to [judicial review](#) by the Courts.

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