

15 January 2025

Dear

ATISN 23188

Thank you for your request which I received on 13 December 2024. You asked for the following information:

1. All correspondence, including minutes of telephone calls, between First Minister Eluned Morgan and the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer since Ms Morgan took office.
2. All correspondence, including minutes of telephone calls, between First Minister Eluned Morgan and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves since Ms Morgan took office.
3. All correspondence, including minutes of telephone calls, between the Cabinet Secretary for Finance Mark Drakeford and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves since Mr Drakeford was appointed to the role.

Our response

I have concluded that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 28 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Relations within the United Kingdom). Further details on the exemption are provided at Annex 1.

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

Section 28 – Relations with the United Kingdom

The exemption states:

28(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between any administration in the United Kingdom and any other such administration Prejudice Test.

Releasing the information at this time would be likely to affect the Welsh Government's relations with the UK Government and impact current and future considerations.

Public interest arguments in favour of release

The Welsh Government acknowledges the general public interest in openness and transparency that release would engender. Further, we recognise that there is public interest in understanding the process by which the Welsh Government and the UK Government discuss certain policy matters and that the release of the information could lead to greater transparency and openness in the way the Welsh Government conducts business with other administrations, which can improve accountability and public trust.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

There is a public interest in ensuring a close and effective working relationship between UK Government Departments and the Welsh Government. .

Disclosure of information which has been generated within this climate of trust and expectation of confidence, particularly at this early stage of relations with a new UK Government, would be likely to result in the same trust and confidence being eroded and a reluctance to share information in future. This would likely prejudice relations between both parties and impact on current and future matters and considerations by the Welsh Government and UK Government.

I believe the public interest in this process is satisfied by information falling within the scope of this request already in the public domain , or which will be placed in the public domain at an appropriate time.

I believe therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the withheld information on this occasion for the reasons outlined above.