

20 January 2025

Dear

ATISN 23212 - Details of Coal Tip Remediation Costs

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 December 2024. You asked for:

The estimated remedial costs of approximately £600 million for coal tip safety in Wales, specifically -

1. **Documentation and Analysis Supporting the £600 Million Estimate:**
 - A breakdown of how the figure was calculated.
 - Any studies, reports, or assessments used to arrive at this estimate.
2. **Site-Specific Analysis:**
 - Whether the estimate includes a detailed analysis of individual coal tip sites.
 - If available, specific cost estimates for individual sites or categories of sites (e.g., Category C or D coal tips).
3. **Methodology:**
 - The methodology employed to assess the costs of remediation.
 - The factors considered in determining site-specific costs, including risk levels, site conditions, and remediation techniques.
4. **Publicly Available Data:**
 - Whether a detailed breakdown of site-specific costs is available to the public.
 - If not, the reasons for this data being unavailable.

Our response

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed.

1. Documentation and Analysis Supporting the £600 Million Estimate:

It is important to note that the range of £500-£600m was a provisional estimate based on the limited information available at the time, following the impact of Storm Dennis and Tylorstown. Since the initial estimated figure was produced, Welsh Government has done a considerable amount of work mapping recorded coal tips (see [Written Statement: Update on Coal Tip Safety \(11 October 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#)). The categorisation of these tips has also evolved in this timeframe as intelligence has been gained through the ongoing tip inspection and maintenance regime.

With an improved information base now available (see [Coal tip safety | GOV.WALES](#)), an up-to-date figure for the total cost of managing Wales' coal tips is currently being worked through. Welsh Government has already committed to this work publicly, in response to the Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (please see our response to Recommendation 7 of the Committee's [Report on the Restoration of Opencast Sites](#)). Welsh Government will publicise the updated figure in due course, once it has been calculated.

2. Site-Specific Analysis:

Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

3. Methodology:

Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

4. Publicly Available Data:

Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

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