



Our ref: ATISN 24844

Date: 17 July 2025

Dear ,

ATISN 24844

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 June 2025.

By way of background, under Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006, foreign affairs (including international development assistance and co-operation), defence and national security are matters reserved to the UK Government.

The information you requested against the questions you submitted follows, where no exemption applies:

Question: The content of any guidance, policies or processes the Welsh Government has in place to ensure that its awarding of grants and providing of services are compliant with international human rights obligations and do not support companies linked to human rights violations, including war crimes.

Under section 6(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998, it is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way that is incompatible with ECHR rights. If the exercise of a public function will engage an ECHR right, Welsh Government must consider if what is being proposed is compatible with that right. This is an overarching duty which applies to all decisions made by Welsh Government which engage ECHR rights.

Grants

As part of signing up to Welsh Government's standard grant award letter, grant funded bodies are required to sign and accept the standard terms and conditions, including obligations to "comply with all applicable domestic or international laws or regulations or official directives".

Services

Welsh Government is continuously promoting responsible and ethical procurement to public sector partners through the use of [Welsh Procurement Policy Note 015:](#)

[Ethical employment practices in public sector supply chains – advice for devolved Welsh authorities](#)

Question: In the period from August 2023 to the date of this request, has the Welsh Government sought or received legal advice regarding:

- **Awarding grants or providing services to companies involved in the research, development, manufacture and supply of arms to the Israeli military.**
- **If yes, please provide the content of the advice, the date it was sought and provided and who it was provided by.**

Welsh Government is unable to respond to this request as it is not clear which companies you consider to be “involved in the research, development, manufacture and supply of arms to the Israeli military”.

However, to the extent that any such information may be held by Welsh Government, it is likely to be exempt from disclosure under section 42(1) - Legal Professional Privilege (LLP).

Under this exemption:

(1) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege ... could be maintained in legal proceedings is exempt information.

LPP covers communications between the Welsh Government’s lawyers (whether external or in-house) and government officials for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, or documents created by or for lawyers for the main purpose of litigation. Legal advice privilege may apply whether or not there is any litigation in prospect, but legal advice is needed.

The section 42(1) exemption is qualified, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. In *Bellamy v the Information Commission and DTI* [EA/2005/0023], the tribunal said:

"there is a strong element of public interest inbuilt into the privilege itself. At least equally strong countervailing considerations would need to be adduced to override that inbuilt interest....it is important that public authorities be allowed to conduct a free exchange of views as to their legal rights and obligations with those advising them without fear of intrusion, save in the most clear case...".

Legal advisers need to be able to present the full picture to their clients, this is the purpose behind the long-established principle of legal professional privilege.

It is in the nature of legal advice that it often sets out the possible arguments both for and against a particular view. If recipients or providers of legal advice believe that it is likely that the legal advice would be published, especially so soon after being sought and in a complex political environment, then it is unlikely that comprehensive advice would be commissioned or provided. This would be likely to result in

substantial harm to the quality of decision-making since it would not be fully informed. It would also undermine the ability of legal advisers and their clients to rely confidently on the protection afforded by the principle of legal professional privilege.

Moreover, disclosure of legal advice has a significant potential to prejudice the governments' ability to defend its legal interests - both directly by unfairly exposing its legal position to challenge, and indirectly by diminishing the reliance it can place on the advice having been fully considered and presented without fear or favour.

Question: How many grants have been awarded to companies involved in the research, development, manufacture and supply of arms to the Israeli military in the last

- **6 months**
- **12 months**
- **24 months**
- **the value of each of those grants and the month it was provided.**

Welsh Government is unable to respond to this request as it is not clear which companies you consider to be "involved in the research, development, manufacture and supply of arms to the Israeli military". If you want to know whether any particular companies have been in receipt of grant funding, please let us have their names and Welsh Government will be able to conduct searches on whether any grants have been awarded.

Question: The value of grants or services provided to the following companies, if any, since August 2023, including the date the grant or service was provided:

Airbus Group; Babcock; BAE systems; Conjay; Curtiss-Wright Controls; Excelitas; General dynamics; QINETIQ; RTX; SENIOR; Textron; Trelleborg

I can confirm no services have been provided to the above companies.

Of the above companies, grants have been provided as follows:

Company Name	Grant award
1. AIRBUS GROUP ENDEAVR WALES	Grant offer date - 20/02/25 Scheme - EADS Foundation Wales Grant award - £300,000.00
1a. Airbus Operations Ltd	Grant offer date - 01/04/2024 Scheme - Flexible Skills Programme Pilot Grant Award - £579,342.47
2. SENIOR	Grant offer date – 22/04/24 Scheme - Economic Futures Fund Grant value - £500,000.00

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 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

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