

30th July 2025

Dear ,

ATISN 24935 – IP – Costs Associated with the Independent Advisory Group on the Future Electricity Grid for Wales

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 11/07/25. You asked for:

- 1) A breakdown of all costs incurred by the Welsh Government relating to the Independent Advisory Group on the Future Energy Grid for Wales.
- 2) Details of any potential or ongoing costs related to the group's work.
- 3) Confirmation of the funding source for these costs.

Our response

The information you requested, where it is available, is enclosed.

- 1) The members and chair of the Independent Advisory Group are unremunerated, and the secretariat is provided by the Welsh Government Energy Division.
The only costs incurred relating to the Independent Advisory Group have been in commissioning consultancy support for compiling comparative technical data provided to the group. This service was provided for £5,000.
- 2) The Independent Advisory Group is in the process of finalising its report. Until this is available no decisions can be or have been taken on the future work relating to the group's work.
- 3) In the published document [Budget Agreement for the 2025-2026 Final Budget](#), funding allocation for work that is expected arise from the work of the Independent Advisory Group is confirmed as follows:
Strengthening Planning Policy Wales to state all energy developers must consider all alternative options, including undergrounding, as part of any environmental impact assessment when making planning applications in Wales. A £1m visual impact innovation fund to trial and gather data on new undergrounding technologies in 2025-26.
The funding source for this is from Welsh Government's overall budget.

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