

21/08/2025

Dear

FoI ATISN 25049

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 11/08/2025. You asked for:

1. All correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Defence concerning Afghan resettlement in Rhoose (including the Holiday Inn Express) from 1 March 2025 to 11 August 2025. Include emails, letters, briefings, meeting invitations/agendas/minutes, and messages on Teams/WhatsApp (if used for official business), plus any attachments.
2. All correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council concerning Afghan housing in Rhoose Holiday Inn, same date range and formats as above.
3. Documents referring to ARP that contain "Nation of Sanctuary". This includes any documents (briefings, submissions, advice, lines-to-take, emails, teams messages etc) that refer to the MoD's ARP in general and or Afghan Rhoose Holiday Inn housing in particular and contain the phrase "Nation of Sanctuary", from 1 March 2025 to 11 August 2025.

You provided the following search aid terms: "Rhoose", "Holiday Inn Express", "Vale of Glamorgan", "VoG", "Afghan", "ARP", "ARR", "ARAP", "ACRS", "Nation of Sanctuary".

You requested that if the cost limit is engaged, under s16 to proceed with question 3 and provide refinement advice for the remainder.

Our response

From our preliminary assessment we estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

Following an initial search for the information requested, including the 10 separate and individual terms included in your request, the time to locate, retrieve and review each piece of information would exceed the appropriate limit.

Terms such as "Vale of Glamorgan" and "VoG" are used by officials across Welsh Government on various matters, not just relating to Afghan resettlement. For

example, an initial search of our corporate repository for Welsh Government information for the specified period using “Vale of Glamorgan” provides over 5,000 documents and 2,776 for “VoG”. The total number of search results returned for each of your suggested search terms was over 17,800. This was a search of our corporate repository and does not include any documents such as emails not yet located and saved on the corporate repository system.

Not all these documents will relate to ARP and Nation of Sanctuary, and so each would need to be individually and manually reviewed for relevance, including whether they fall within the date parameters specified. These individual items may consist of multiple pages and text which would need to be reviewed to determine relevance to your request for information. This is before any searches are carried out on the suggested search terms in your request.

Based on this preliminary assessment we have determined that this would exceed 24 hours of time to retrieve, review and extract the information. Consequently, we have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

As per the Code of Practice we have considered what advice and assistance can be provided to help you reframe or refocus this request with a view to bringing it within the cost limit. This advice should not be taken as confirmation that any further request would come within the cost limit. That assessment would still take place on receipt of a refined request and would be treated as a new request for the purposes of the Act.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. This could be specifying a smaller number of search term combinations and types of documents. Please note that some of the acronyms you provided may be used for matters not related to Afghan resettlement and may not be relevant to the information you want. If you do refine your request, this will be treated as a new request.

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