

23 September 2025

Dear

ATISN 25090

Thank you for your request which I received on 26 August 2025. You asked for the following information regarding the current Welsh Government Car fleet:

- Number and type of each vehicle.
- Lease or purchase price of each vehicle.
- Maintenance contract cost or servicing costs for each vehicle.
- Number of chauffeurs employed by the Welsh Government
- Max/Min Salary bands for chauffeurs.
- If available, the estimated total yearly cost of entire fleet plus drivers.

Our response

The type and purchase price of each vehicle is shown below:

Volvo S90 Saloon 2.0 D4 Auto Momentum	£29,750
Volvo S90 Saloon 2.0 D4 Auto Momentum	£29,750
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Inscription Hybrid	£39,995
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Inscription Hybrid	£41,250
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Inscription Hybrid	£41,250
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Inscription Hybrid	£41,250
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Hybrid	£48,071
Volvo S90 Saloon T8 Auto Hybrid	£48,071
Nissan Ariya	£38,886
Nissan Ariya	£38,886
Nissan Ariya	£38,886
Nissan Ariya	£38,886

The maintenance and servicing costs for the financial year 24-25 were £10,426, including maintenance, servicing and tyres.

The current compliment of official car drivers comprises, 8 fulltime drivers and 3 parttime drivers.

Your request also asks for the Max/Min Salary bands for chauffeurs. There is no Salary band for official drivers, each driver receives the same basic salary.

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b), provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

'Personal data' is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 1998 ('the DPA 2018') and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual. I have concluded that this relates to the individuals that could be identified and could be affected by release of the information.

Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

"processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject"

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the FOIA is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

"processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child".

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

1. The Legitimate interest test: Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
2. The Necessity test: Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
3. The Balancing test: Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate Interest Test

The Welsh Government recognises there is a legitimate interest in the use of public funds. We do not believe, however, there is any legitimate reason why the personal data of a small group of individuals would need to be released. In this case, the salary of individuals. The Welsh Government cannot identify any other legitimate interest in you or the public receiving the personal data captured by your request.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

The Welsh Government is of the view that it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by your request. The full costs listed elsewhere in this response satisfies the legitimate interest in the use of public funds.

3. The Balancing Test

As it has been concluded it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by the request, there is no requirement to balance the rights and interests of those individuals against the rights, under FOIA, of the requester.

The total cost of the official car fleet, including running costs, drivers costs and vehicle purchases, for the financial year 24-25 was £795,319.

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.of.information@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