

31 October 2025

Dear

ATISN 26251 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request which I received on 13 October 2025. You asked for:

1. PORT TALBOT CLOSURE AND SUPPORT (2023-2025)

1.1. All Welsh Government assessments of the impact of Port Talbot blast furnaces closure, including:

- Direct job losses (2,800 reported)
- Supply chain impacts
- Economic impact on Port Talbot and wider south Wales
- Social and community impacts

1.2. All negotiations with UK Government regarding support for Port Talbot steelworkers and community, including:

- The £80 million transition support package
- Retraining and skills programs
- Economic regeneration funding

1.3. All correspondence with Tata Steel UK regarding the closure and transition plans.

2. COMPARATIVE TREATMENT ANALYSIS (2025)

2.1. All Welsh Government analysis comparing the treatment of:

- Port Talbot (blast furnaces closed, workers made redundant)
- Scunthorpe (emergency legislation, government takeover, furnaces kept operating)

2.2. Any legal advice received regarding whether Welsh steelworkers received discriminatory treatment compared to English steelworkers.

2.3. Any assessments of potential equality, discrimination, or devolution issues arising from differential treatment.

3. ALTERNATIVE INTERVENTIONS CONSIDERED (2023-2025)

3.1. All records of Welsh Government considering or requesting:

- Emergency legislation to save Port Talbot blast furnaces (similar to Steel Act 2025)
- Welsh Government takeover or nationalisation of Port Talbot
- Use of devolved powers to intervene in steel industry

3.2. Any legal advice on Welsh Government's powers to intervene in strategic industries.

3.3. All records of requests to UK Government to recall Parliament or pass emergency legislation for Port Talbot.

4. ENGAGEMENT WITH UK GOVERNMENT (2023-2025)

4.1. All correspondence between Welsh Government and UK Government departments regarding:

- Port Talbot blast furnaces
- Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill/Act 2025
- Allocation of £2.5 billion clean steel fund

4.2. All ministerial correspondence between:

- First Minister and Prime Minister
- Welsh Economy Minister and UK Business Secretary
- Other Welsh and UK Ministers regarding steel industry support.

4.3. Minutes of any Joint Ministerial Committees or inter-governmental meetings discussing steel.

5. £2.5 BILLION CLEAN STEEL FUND (2024-2025)

5.1. All correspondence with UK Government regarding Wales' share of the £2.5 billion National Wealth Fund clean steel allocation.

5.2. Any analysis of whether funding is being disproportionately allocated to English steel sites vs Welsh sites.

5.3. Any advocacy for Port Talbot or Llanwern to receive funding under the clean steel program.

6. DEVOLUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES (2025)

6.1. All assessments of whether the Steel Act 2025's territorial extent (England and Wales per Clause 2, but England-only focus) raises devolution issues.

6.2. Any legal advice on whether Welsh Government should have been consulted under the Sewel Convention before the Steel Act was applied to Wales.

6.3. Any consideration of legislative consent motion or other devolution procedures.

7. ECONOMIC REGENERATION FOR PORT TALBOT (2024-2025)

7.1. All Welsh Government plans and funding for Port Talbot economic regeneration following blast furnace closure.

7.2. All assessments of long-term economic viability of Port Talbot and south Wales steel industry.

7.3. Any analysis of alternative industries or employers to replace steel sector jobs.

8. POLITICAL AND MEDIA STRATEGY (2025)

8.1. Any briefings or communications strategy regarding Welsh Government's position on the differential treatment between Port Talbot and Scunthorpe.

8.2. Any records of planned political campaigns or advocacy regarding steel industry support for Wales.

9. NATURAL RESOURCES WALES REGULATION (2020-2025)

9.1. All coordination between Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales regarding:

- Environmental regulation of Port Talbot steelworks
- Monitoring of Tata Steel environmental performance
- Enforcement actions

9.2. Any assessment of whether environmental regulation contributed to closure decision.

10. FUTURE WELSH STEEL STRATEGY (2025)

10.1. Any Welsh Government strategy for the future of steel production in Wales.

10.2. All assessments of potential for new steel investments in Wales (electric arc furnaces, green steel technologies).

10.3. Any plans to seek powers or funding to intervene more directly in Welsh steel industry.

Our response

From my preliminary assessment I 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.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require extensive manual searches of files across Welsh Government and for all dates since the establishment of Welsh Government. For instance, in part 3.1, third bullet of your request, you ask for all records held by Welsh Government considering or requesting use of devolved powers to intervene in steel industry. In order to answer just this part of the request would need us to search and manually review files across multiple divisions of Welsh Government that may have information in scope. We would need to review both electronic records going back to 2011 and paper records prior to that date.

As an exercise, I tried locating electronic records that may be in scope of the request using appropriate keywords and found 463835 documents that would need to be reviewed to see if they contained relevant material captured by this part of the request. Review requires accessing and reading the document, and even if this could be done at the rate of one document every 3 minutes, reviewing these records would take in excess of 23,000 hours, which is clearly well in excess of the appropriate limit. Other aspects of this request would similarly be well in excess of the appropriate limit. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

You may find the below links to information already available in the public domain helpful.

The Economy, Transport and Rural Affairs Committee 09 October 2025

<https://business.senedd.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=738&MIId=15380&Ver=4>
<https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/15079?lang=en-GB#A95857>

Tata Steel Transition Information Hub – Neath Port Talbot Council

[Tata Steel Transition Information Hub](#)

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.