

12 November 2025

Dear

ATISN 26258 – Donations to DEC Middle East Appeal

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 15 October. In your email you asked for the following:

- 1. Dates, amounts, and recipients of all payments made by the Welsh Government in connection with the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal — including the donations of £100,000 (October 2024), £100,000 (January 2025), and the pledged £250,000 (October 2025).*
- 2. Confirmation of whether the £250,000 announced on 15 October 2025 has been transferred or remains pending.*
- 3. Copies of any remittance advice, grant authorisation forms, or payment confirmations for the above donations.*
- 4. The budget code(s), department, and ministerial approvals from which these funds were allocated.*
- 5. Any internal correspondence, briefing papers, or legal advice discussing the competence or justification for providing international aid (given that foreign affairs and international development are non-devolved areas).*
- 6. Any impact assessments, progress or monitoring reports received from DEC regarding how these funds have been used or distributed.*

Response

Question 1

The Welsh Government has made three donations to the Appeal, £100,000 was announced in October 2024, £100,000 in January 2025 and £250,000 in October 2025. The donations were paid direct to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

Question 2

The donation announced on 15 October 2025 has been transferred.

Question 3

The remittance advice for the three donations is enclosed. The account details have been redacted under Section 40 of the FOI Act (Personal Information).

Question 4

The donations were made from the International Relations and Trade Department, budget code – BEL 3720. The ministerial authorisation of each donation has been published via a short decision report and can be found here - [Decision reports | GOV.WALES](#).

Question 5

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information captured by your request, however, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 42 - Legal Professional

Privilege, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

Question 6

Enclosed is DEC's 6 month report that covers October 2024 to April 2025. The report provides an overview of what the DEC Appeal funds have achieved in each location – Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria. This report, therefore, covers the donations made in October 2024 and January 2025.

With the recent ceasefire announcement, DEC charities and their local partners are now scaling their work again after months of extraordinary challenges delivering aid. They anticipate that the recent donations to the Appeal will provide vital aid such as water trucking, cash assistance, medical care, and psychosocial support. We expect to receive a further report in due course, similar to the one enclosed, that will set out what the recent DEC Appeal funds have achieved, which would include the most recent donation from Welsh Government.

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
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
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

ANNEX A

Section 42 – Legal Professional Privilege.

This exemption states (inter alia):

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

Legal professional privilege (LPP) covers communications between lawyers and their clients for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, or documents created by or for lawyers for the “dominant” (main) purpose of litigation. The information in question concerns confidential communications made for the purpose of providing or obtaining legal advice or for lawyers to use in preparing a case for litigation.

The section 42 exemption is qualified, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. That there is a public interest served in public authorities being able to access advice which benefited from professional legal privilege was noted in *Bellamy v the Information Commission and DTI* [EA/2005/0023] in which the tribunal, on the subject of LPP 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...”.

The Welsh Government is of the firm view that it is highly important to maintain legal professional privilege and that, in the absence of at least equally strong countervailing considerations, any attempt to undermine the principle of legal professional privilege would result in substantial harm.

Legal advisers need to be able to present the full picture to their clients, in this case all UK Government and devolved administrations, which includes arguments in support of final conclusions and any relevant counter-arguments. 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.