

5 May 2026

Dear

ATISN 26866 - EIR Request: Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 6th April 2026. You asked for information regarding Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda.

Our response

The information you requested is outlined below and in the attached documents.

I have decided that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under section 12(5)(e) of the of the Environmental Information Regulations and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exceptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

Please note that personal information has been redacted in accordance with Regulation 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The following identifiers have been used to ensure the correspondence can be followed:

RCT Official	Officer working for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.
WG Official	Welsh Government Official working within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Team

1) The total amount of Welsh Government funding allocated to the Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda project, including:

a) Original approved funding

Welsh Government funding is approved at Full Business Case stage only. Any prior approval is in principle and subject to final costs.

*The approved funding at Full Business Case stage is **£51,694,157**.*

b) Any revised or additional funding approvals

There have been no further revised or additional funding approvals.

c) The funding programme under which the project is supported

The projected is supported under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme

2) Copies of:

a) Business cases submitted to Welsh Government

The SOC, OBC and FBC and related appendices have been shared in attachments 2a.

b) Welsh Government assessment or appraisal documents

Welsh Government assessment and appraisal documents have been provided in attachments 2b.

c) Value-for-money assessments and funding justification papers

Value for Money assessments were undertaken by the Local Authority and provided within the annexes to business plans. Approval was recorded in the EIP paper, with any concerns addressed through an addendum where applicable. Funding justification papers are given in attachments 2b.

3) Any recorded correspondence between Welsh Government and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council relating to:

a) Funding approvals

Funding approval letters and an email communication log can be found in attachments 3a

b) Project scope

This information was previously set out as part of the business case stages and in Attachment 3a – Correspondence

c) Cost changes or revisions

This information was previously set out as part of the business case stages and in Attachment 3a – Correspondence

4) Details of any conditions attached to the funding, including:

a) Delivery milestones

All delivery milestones are set out in the grant offer letter and the approval-to-proceed correspondence in attachments 3a.

b) Cost controls or limits

All delivery cost controls or limits are set out in the grant offer letter and the approval-to-proceed correspondence in attachments 3a.

c) Performance or reporting requirements

All performance or reporting requirements are set out in the Grant Award Letter and the approval-to-proceed correspondence in attachments 3a.

5) Any recorded information relating to risks identified by Welsh Government, including:

a) Cost overruns

Any risks relating to cost overruns will have been identified in the assessment and appraisal documents in attachments 2b.

b) Delivery delays

Any risks relating to delivery delays will have been identified in the assessment and appraisal documents in attachments 2b.

c) Concerns regarding affordability or long-term sustainability

Any risks relating to affordability or long-term sustainability will have been identified in the assessment and appraisal documents in attachments 2b.

6) Details of monitoring and oversight arrangements, including:

a) Progress reporting requirements

The Grant Award Letter in attachments 3a sets out all requirements relating to progress reporting.

b) Internal monitoring reports

The project was approved in March 2026 and ongoing monitoring throughout its lifecycle will be supported by quarterly meetings and quarterly data return submissions.

c) Any intervention or escalation actions considered or taken

No intervention or escalation actions have been considered or taken to date.

7) Copies of any internal briefing notes, ministerial submissions, or decision records relating to:

a) Approval of the project

This information can be found in the documents in attachments 7a. Ministerial Advice decision reports can be found at: <https://www.gov.wales/decision-reports>

b) Ongoing funding decisions

There have been no further ongoing funding decisions since project approval.

c) Any revisions to the project scope or cost

There have been no further revisions to the project scope or cost since project approval.

8) The name of the main contractor(s) and any involvement Welsh Government had in procurement oversight or approval (if applicable).

RCT have appointed Keir construction on pre-construction services agreement to develop the design up to construction. Welsh Government has no direct involvement in the procurement of the main contractor.

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

Annex A

Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

EIR - Engagement of Section 12(5)(e) Regulation 12(5)(e) states a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

The Welsh Government has carefully considered the information falling within the scope of this request and has concluded that elements of the requested information engage Regulation 12(5)(e). In particular, this relates to detailed financial and commercial information, including the Project Cost Template, cost breakdowns, and related financial data contained within business cases and supporting documentation.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

There is a recognised public interest in transparency and accountability in relation to the use of public funds. The information relates to the development of the publicly funded Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda, and full disclosure would promote public understanding of the project, including decision-making processes and financial investment.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is currently operating under a Pre-Construction Services Agreement with the appointed contractor. At this stage, detailed costs remain subject to ongoing commercial negotiation. Disclosure of a detailed breakdown of costs at this point would be likely to undermine the Council's commercial position by revealing commercially sensitive information to the contractor and potential subcontractors. This could prejudice the Council's ability to secure best value and would adversely affect its legitimate economic interests. Accordingly, disclosure would have an adverse effect on the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information within the meaning of Regulation 12(5)(e).

Balance of public interest test

Whilst recognising the strength of the public interest argument for sharing this information, this is mitigated by our decision to release most of the information that we hold. On balance, we consider that the public interest in disclosing some of the commercial information – that is, the commercial information where the harms would or would be likely to arise – is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information for the reasons above. We have therefore

withheld some information and redacted commercially sensitive content within the attached documents.