

3 July 2026

FOI Request - ATISN 27063 - Contested political terms

Dear

Thank you for your request which we received on **5 June 2026**. You asked for:

“Copies of emails, briefing notes, submissions, reports, meeting notes, attachments and any other recorded information created, received or held by the Cohesive Communities Division and/or the Inclusion and Cohesion Team between 7 May 2026 and 7 June 2026 containing any of the following phrases:

1. *"far-right"*
2. *"far right"*
3. *"anti-migrant"*
4. *"anti migrant"*
5. *"anti-asylum"*
6. *"anti asylum"*
7. *"counter narrative"*
8. *"counter narratives"*
9. *"counter-narrative"*
10. *"counter-narratives"*
11. *"polarised"*
12. *"polarising"*
13. *"polarise"*
14. *"divisive"*

Our response

For the reasons explained below, and in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we have concluded that your request is vexatious.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner on vexatious or repeated requests explains that “Section 14(1) is designed to protect public authorities by allowing them to refuse any requests which have the potential to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress”. We have concluded that your request is vexatious.

For the purpose of identifying potentially vexatious requests, paragraphs 64-74 of the Information Commissioner’s Guidance refers to requests which would impose a grossly oppressive burden but which are not covered by the Section 12 (appropriate costs limit).

In reaching our decision, we have assessed your request to be a disproportionate and unjustified burden in the context of a series of recent requests for information on how the Welsh Government is monitoring and responding to hate and community tensions which has been considered exempt from disclosure under previous

requests (ATISN 26695, ATISN 26756, ATISN 26827). Although this request seeks information using a different set of search terms, we consider it to form part of a continuing series of requests seeking overlapping information about the same area of Welsh Government activity. We have therefore assessed not only the burden imposed by this request in isolation, but also the cumulative impact of the series of requests as a whole.. The Information Commissioner recognises that the context and history of requests may be taken into account when assessing whether a request is vexatious, including the cumulative burden created by a pattern of requests on related topics.

Our response to a related request (ATISN 26827) explained that releasing related material is considered to be likely to harm the ability of officials and Ministers to deliver community cohesion work effectively. It would impact the quality of decision-making, policy development, the ability to give and receive honest advice, relationships with partners, safety of community members, and the overall administration of our work. Disclosure would make officials and partners less willing to provide frank advice, raise concerns, and communicate community tensions. That request was refused under section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act but we have not relied upon that section for this response because we believe section 14 is more appropriate, in recognition of the context of a series of related requests.

We have also assessed your request as falling within the scope of section 14 because:

- The volume of information being sought is substantial and the sensitivity of community tensions means that only experienced senior officials would be able to review documents and properly consider appropriate exemptions.
- Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material

Your ongoing attempts to access related information, despite the previous responses we have provided, is placing a disproportionate and unjustified level of disruption on Welsh Government officials. We have also considered whether the value and purpose of the request justify that level of disruption. While we recognise there is general public interest in understanding Welsh Government activity in this area, we consider that the incremental value of conducting a further extensive review of material relating to a subject which has already been the focus of several recent requests is outweighed by the significant burden that compliance would impose.

Taking account of the context, history and cumulative burden of the requests, together with the level of specialist review that would be required, we have concluded that complying with this request would impose a disproportionate and unjustified burden on the Welsh Government. We therefore consider the request to be vexatious for the purposes of section 14(1) of FOIA.

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 contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

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