

16 September 2026

Dear

ATISN 27355 – Gypsy and Travellers Capital Site Grant

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 16 August 2026. You asked:

- 1) Please identify the project or projects for which the £368,330 and £18,100 grants were awarded to Flintshire County Council, including the site(s) and purpose of the funding.
- 2) Please confirm whether the £368,330 and £18,100 amounts were:
 - allocated specifically to one or more named sites/projects; or
 - provided to Flintshire County Council as a general allocation which the Council was able to determine how to spend within the terms of the grant scheme.
- 3) Please provide a copy of the relevant funding application(s), award letter(s), grant agreement(s) and other document(s) setting out the terms and conditions applicable to the £368,330 and £18,100 awards.
- 4) Please provide the amount of the £368,330 and the £18,100 which had been paid to Flintshire County Council as at the date of this request, and the amount which the Welsh Government records show had been claimed or paid in respect of expenditure as at that date.
- 5) Please confirm whether any part of the £368,330 or the £18,100 funding related specifically to the proposed Gypsy and Traveller transit site at Castle Park Industrial Estate, Flint, associated with planning application FUL/000198/26.
- 6) Please provide copies of any correspondence between Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council concerning the £368,330 and £18,100 awards which specifically concerns:
 - the allocation of the funding;
 - the Castle Park proposals;
 - expenditure or claims against the grant;
 - monitoring and reporting;
 - any delay to the Castle Park project;
 - the withdrawal of FUL/000198/26; or
 - the return, reprofiling, reallocation or variation of the funding.
- 7) Following the withdrawal of FUL/000198 on the 17th of March 2026, please confirm whether any part of the £368,330 or £18,100 has:
 - been returned to the Welsh Government;
 - been reprofiled into a subsequent financial year;
 - been reallocated to another site or project;
 - had its approved purpose amended; or

- otherwise been varied or withdrawn.

Our response

1. Please identify the project or projects for which the £368,330 and £18,100 grants were awarded to Flintshire County Council, including the site(s) and purpose of the funding

Funding of £368,330 was awarded to Flintshire County Council to upgrade the utility blocks and drainage infrastructure at the Riverside site for all their 20 pitches.

Funding of £18,100 was awarded to Flintshire County Council to purchase a shipping container and play equipment for the Riverside site.

2. Please confirm whether the £368,330 and £18,100 amounts were:

- **allocated specifically to one or more named sites/projects; or**
- **provided to Flintshire County Council as a general allocation which the Council was able to determine how to spend within the terms of the grant scheme.**

Both funding awards were awarded specifically for the improvement of the Gypsy and Traveller site on Riverside.

The grants were not provided as a general allocation for the Council to spend at its discretion. This grant funding can only for the activities in its grant application in accordance with the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital grant rules.

3. Please provide a copy of the relevant funding application(s), award letter(s), grant agreement(s) and other document(s) setting out the terms and conditions applicable to the £368,330 and £18,100 awards.

This information has been provided. For ease of reference, a schedule of the documents disclosed in response to this part of the request is included at Annex B.

4. Please provide the amount of the £368,330 and the £18,100 which had been paid to Flintshire County Council as at the date of this request, and the amount which the Welsh Government records show had been claimed or paid in respect of expenditure as at that date.

As at the date this request was processed, the full grant award of £368,330 had been claimed by and paid to Flintshire County Council.

As at the same date, £14,728.38 of the £18,100 grant award had been claimed by and paid to Flintshire County Council.

5. Please confirm whether any part of the £368,330 or the £18,100 funding related specifically to the proposed Gypsy and Traveller transit site at Castle Park Industrial Estate, Flint, associated with planning application FUL/000198/26.

Neither of those awards is related to the proposed transit site or associated planning application.

6. Please provide copies of any correspondence between Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council concerning the £368,330 and £18,100 awards which specifically concerns:

- the allocation of the funding;
- the Castle Park proposals;
- expenditure or claims against the grant;
- monitoring and reporting;
- any delay to the Castle Park project;
- the withdrawal of FUL/000198/26; or
- the return, reprofiling, reallocation or variation of the funding.

£368,330 award: The grant award letter, progress and evaluation reports, which include details of grant claims, are provided at Annex B. No variation was made to this funding.

£18,100 award: The grant award letter and evaluation report, which includes details of the grant claim, are provided at Annex B. Of the £18,100 awarded, only £14,728.38 was claimed. No variation was made to this funding.

7. Following the withdrawal of FUL/000198 on the 17th of March 2026, please confirm whether any part of the £368,330 or £18,100 has:

- been returned to the Welsh Government;
- been reprofiled into a subsequent financial year;
- been reallocated to another site or project;
- had its approved purpose amended; or
- otherwise been varied or withdrawn.

Neither award was linked to planning application FUL/000198/26. Therefore, the withdrawal of that application had no impact on the funding awarded.

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

The Freedom of information Act 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.

I have decided to withhold certain information under section 40(2).

Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Section 40(2), together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or section 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(3) of the Data Protection Act 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, including 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 that individual.

We have concluded that, in this instance, the information requested contains third party personal data.

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

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

The lawful basis most relevant in relation to a request for information under FOIA is Article 6(1)(f), which 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 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:

- **The Legitimate Interest Test:** Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
- **The Necessity Test:** Whether disclosure of the information is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
- **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 interests

We recognise there is a legitimate public interest in understanding how public funds were allocated, administered and monitored, and in ensuring transparency and accountability in relation to the grant awards that are the subject of this request.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

We do not consider that disclosure of the redacted personal information is necessary to meet that legitimate interest. The disclosed documents provide information about the grant applications, award decisions, expenditure, claims, monitoring and evaluation of the grants without the need to disclose the identities, contact details or signatures of individual officers or other individuals referenced in the documents.

3. The balance between legitimate interests and the data subject's interests or fundamental rights and freedoms

We have considered whether the legitimate interest in disclosure outweighs the rights and freedoms of the individuals concerned. We do not consider that it does. The individuals whose personal information has been redacted would not reasonably expect their names, contact details, signatures or other identifying information to be disclosed into the public domain in response to an FOI request. Disclosure would not add materially to public understanding of the grant awards or the Welsh Government's administration of the funding, but would infringe the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Conversely, disclosure would remove the privacy afforded to those individuals and could expose them to unwanted contact or scrutiny. Welsh Government has a duty to protect personal information where disclosure is not necessary to understand the substance of the information being released.

For these reasons, we consider that disclosure of the personal information would be unfair and would not be lawful under Article 6(1)(f) of the UK GDPR. As no other Article 6 condition is considered to apply, disclosure would breach the first data protection principle.

The information has therefore been withheld under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

Annex B

Document name
Application form for the shipping container and play equipment
Grant Award Letter for the shipping container and play equipment
Evaluation Report for the shipping container and play equipment
Application form for the amenity blocks and drainage
Grant Award Letter for the amenity blocks and drainage
Progress Report (1) for the amenity blocks and drainage
Progress Report (2) for the amenity blocks and drainage
Progress Report (3) for the amenity blocks and drainage
Progress Report (4) for the amenity blocks and drainage
Progress Report (5) for the amenity blocks and drainage
Evaluation Report for the amenity blocks and drainage
Correspondence with Flintshire Council regarding the play equipment
Correspondence with Flintshire Council regarding amenity blocks (final claim)
Correspondence with Flintshire Council regarding amenity blocks (application)