Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 26-0195 / ATISN 26-0196 /
ATISN 26-0241

25 November 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Request for information – Global Centre of Rail Excellence

Thank you for the following three requests for information concerning the Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE):

1. ATISN 26-0195 – "Environmental Information Request — GCRE and proposed 350MW data centre, CAS-05134-C8C9N9", received on 5 November 2026, covering funding and business cases, land interests and disposal, private-sector agreements, infrastructure and environmental matters, and the relationship between the rail facility and proposed data-centre development.
2. ATISN 26-0196 – "FOI Request — GCRE 2022 Investment Partner Procurement and Subsequent Decisions", received on 5 November 2026, covering the investment-partner procurement and its outcome, bidders and evaluation, Ministerial records, any resulting investment agreement and the subsequent data-centre proposition.
3. ATISN 26-0241 – "INS — GCRE Public Land, 999-Year Lease, Data Centre and Future Welsh Land-Disposal Precedent", received on 9 November 2026, covering GCRE land ownership and disposal, the proposed 999-year lease and data-centre development, associated decisions and agreements, and the potential implications for future Welsh Government land disposals.

As the three requests were submitted by the same source within a short period and concern the same or closely related information about GCRE, we are considering

them together for the purposes of the appropriate limit under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Taken together, the requests contain 24 detailed points and cover a broad range of information over several years. The information potentially relevant to the requests is not held in one place. Identifying whether information is held, and then locating, retrieving and extracting it, would require searches across a number of Welsh Government record systems, files and correspondence, including Ministerial advice, funding and governance records, project updates, land and commercial records, and correspondence with GCRE and third parties.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. For Welsh Government, that limit is £600, which is equivalent to 24 hours of staff time calculated at the statutory rate of £25 per hour.

When estimating whether the appropriate limit would be exceeded, we may take account only of the time reasonably required to:

- determine whether the requested information is held;
- locate the information;
- retrieve the information; and
- extract relevant information from records that also contain material outside the scope of the requests.

Our initial assessment is that complying with the three requests as currently framed is likely to exceed the appropriate limit. Before deciding whether it is necessary to refuse the requests, or parts of them, under section 12, we would like to give you an opportunity to narrow or refocus the information requested. This may enable us to bring the work required within the appropriate limit and provide the information that is of greatest importance to you.

Given the breadth of the information requested across the three requests, it would be helpful if you could identify:

- which areas or individual questions are of greatest importance to you;
- whether there are any elements you would be content to remove or narrow; and
- whether any of the date ranges covered by the individual requests could be reduced.

If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request. If you do not wish to refine them, we will continue to assess the requests as currently framed and may need to refuse all or part of the requests under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 if we determine that complying with them would exceed the appropriate limit.

Please let us know how you wish to proceed.

If you have any queries, please quote all three reference numbers in future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,