



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10055

20 January, 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10055

I wrote to you on 22 December regarding your request for information. In relation to investment in Enterprise Zones, you asked for a breakdown of public and private sector capital and revenue investment on projects supported by the Welsh Government in each of the Zones for every financial year since the Zones were established, including the first six months of the 2015-16 financial year.

I confirm that we hold some information relating to your request. Of the information that we hold, I have concluded that it is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information intended for future publication. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is given at Appendix A. We do not hold a breakdown of private sector capital and revenue investment on projects supported by the Welsh Government in the Enterprise Zones.

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 FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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

ATISN 10055 - Consideration For and Against Disclosure of Information

Section 22 – information intended for future publication

Section 22 states that *Information is exempt information if –*

- a) *The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)*
- b) *The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time the request for information was made, and*
- c) *It is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph a).*

I am of the opinion that subsections (a) and (b) above are met because the information is held with a view to its publication. This information will be published during Summer 2016. With regards to part (c), I have given consideration as to whether it would be 'reasonable in all the circumstances' that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the proposed publication date.

I am of the opinion that releasing any of this information at this time would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's intentions in relation to the publication of such material. Thus I am content that the exemption is engaged.

Section 22 is a public interested exemption. This means that, in order to withhold information, I must show that the public interest in withholding is greater than the public interest in releasing it.

In terms of the public interest, the Welsh Government acknowledges the continued interest in the development of each of the Enterprise Zones which is why information and updates are provided on the Enterprise Zones website.

The proposed publication date of the information requested has been agreed as part of normal business. It is our intention to release this information in Summer 2016. At this stage, some key projects will have completed and the full year-end performance for 2015/16 can be included. This is in line with our normal reporting procedures. Given that we have multi-year projects, I am of the opinion that publicly releasing a breakdown of public capital and revenue investment on projects at this time, ahead of publishing the full performance data, would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's pre-set programme and the Ministerial process in relation to this work in that the raw data, if released prematurely, may be misconstrued and would be likely to provide an incomplete picture. This is because members of the public may make false assumptions based on interim data rather than understanding the whole picture.

To that end, I do not think it is reasonable in all the circumstances or in the public interest to release this information prematurely. Rather, I believe the public interest would be best served if the information were released as scheduled. I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.