



31 January 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 11876

I wrote to you on 5 January to acknowledge your request for information. You asked for:

1. Any correspondence to or from, or on behalf of Carwyn Jones pertaining to the Powys Fadog project/Riverlodge site in Llangollen, including any information that is relevant to your request from June 2009 until June 2012.
2. Any correspondence to or from Carwyn Jones (or his office, or representative) that relates to you, including any relevant information from June 2009 until June 2012.
3. Records of any telephone conversations with Carwyn Jones (or by a representative) relating to the Riverlodge site/Powys Fadog project, including any internal processes, audits, FOI requests, from June 2009 until June 2012.
4. Records/notes/minutes of any meetings attended by Carwyn Jones or a representative of Carwyn Jones that have discussed the Powys Fadog project/Riverlodge site.

I sent you a further letter on 18 January regarding the progress of your request. I explained that your request would be time consuming and dealing with it could exceed the appropriate limit. My letter suggested ways in which you could narrow your request.

I note your e-mail of 22 January asked the Welsh Government to undertake a review of our decision. The Welsh Government was unable to undertake such a review as it had not at that time reached a decision regarding your request; there was therefore no decision to review. When you have read this decision letter, please advise if you still wish an internal review to be undertaken, as advised at the end of this letter.



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Turning then, to your request. You have previously submitted a very similar request, reference ATISN 7530. In that request, you asked for identical information but for slightly different timescales. I note you have reduced the search time-frame for your first and second questions by 13 months. For your third question, you have provided a different but longer search-timeframe than previous. As with ATISN 7530, you have not specified a search time-frame for your final question. As well as request ATISN 7530, you had also asked for information for two other previous Welsh Ministers, referenced ATISN 7531 and 7532.

You were provided with a single response to all three requests on 12 February, 2016. As indicated in that response, a letter was sent to you on 11 December 2013 regarding your second question listed above, in which you asked for personal information, following your complaint to the Information Commissioner. It was explained to you that a search had been undertaken within the named Ministerial offices for any personal data of the type set out by your request. It was confirmed that, having given consideration to your request as a subject access request under the Data Protection Act 1998, other than the personal data which you had received in response to your previous requests, no further information had been identified. This position has not changed and no such personal data is held.

Moving, then, to questions 1, 3 and 4. Whilst I note you are only now requesting information relevant to the First Minister, I believe that the time it would take to respond to these requests would still exceed the appropriate limit exemption under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit is contained in regulation 4 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and allows the Welsh Government to refuse a request in circumstances where it is estimated that the cost of providing the information will exceed £600 (this is the cost for central government which also applies to the Welsh Government). The £600 figure is calculated on the basis of it taking more than 24 working hours (at a rate of £25 per hour) to establish whether we hold the information, locate the information and thereafter retrieve and extract it.

I provided you with a full explanation and calculations in my letter of 12 February 2016. That explanation remains and very similar searches would still need to be undertaken for the First Minister only on our electronic filing system, hard copy files and with the First Minister's Private Office.

It is further likely, given the additional passage of time, that any information we did hold regarding River Lodge will likely have since been destroyed under our records management policy, which has previously been outlined to you.

Due to the very broad nature of your request, the time it would take to deal with it for the reasons and calculations previously provided to you and provided above, would far exceed the 24 working hour limit provided for in section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and regulation 4 of the Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. On that basis, I have decided not to process your request.

Finally, in my letter to you of 12 February, I provided advice about providing more specific requests for information. That advice still stands.

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.

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 Information Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

I note that your original request was submitted in English, but your request for an internal review was submitted in Welsh. Please let me know if you would like to receive this response, or any future correspondence, in Welsh only.

Yours sincerely

Chris Munday
Deputy Director, Business Solutions