



Our Ref: ATISN 12125
Date: 22 March 2018

Dear _____,

ATISN 12125 – Autism Policy

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 February. You asked for any

- 1 - All copies of minutes/documentation pertaining to the planning and implementation of Autism Policy in Wales between 2002 - 2008 (especially that of the Cross Party Autism Group that was founded in 2002)
- 2 - All costings of spending and earnings year on year in a break down on:
 - a - autism policy implementation costings
 - b - autism policy publicity/PR costings
 - c - any ancillary advisory or other costings to do with autism policy
- 3 - A list of dates between 2002 - 2008 when external organisations and statutory body were invited to participate in the creation of Autism Policy and the reasons behind their involvement

I can confirm that the Welsh Government may hold information of this description. However, I believe providing it to you would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out under Section 12 of the Act., This states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information in circumstances where it estimates the cost of compliance would exceed "the appropriate limit" (as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004). In the case of the Welsh Government, the limit is set at £600 or 24 hours of working time.

When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time (at a standard rate of £25 per hour) the limit will have been exceeded. For the time period you requested, the Welsh Government has information saved

in hard copy only. The initial search for the information you requested during that time period yielded 34 hard copy files.

On average each file contains 242 pages and each page takes an average of 36 seconds to search. Therefore determining whether the files hold information relevant to your request and then extracting it would take over 84 hours (249 pages x 34 folders = 8466 pages total, 8466 pages x 36 secs per page = 304776 seconds total, 304776 / 60 = 5079.6 minutes, 5079.6 / 60 = 84.66 hours). This exceeds the appropriate limit set under the 2004 Regulations. For these reasons I have concluded that your request should be refused under section 12.

In the circumstances, we will not take any additional action in relation to this request and any further request for information received from you will be logged and handled as a new request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. I will only use this personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. I will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/foi/responses/?lang=en>

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: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@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,