



22 March 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 12154

I wrote to you on 12 March regarding your request for information. You asked:

1. How much did it cost to clear up and secure the site at Tatton Road, Newport, last year after travellers living there left?
2. How many security guards were employed to look after the site and how long were they there for?
3. Have there been any problems with fly-tipping since the site was cleared?
4. What plans are there for the future use of that site?

I confirm we hold some information caught by your request. The cost to secure and clear the site after travellers living there left was £64,405. There were 6 security guards on site between 5 April and 7 April, 2017. There was also an average of 6 security guards on site between 21 April 2017 to 25 October 2017. There were an additional 2 security guards on site for 5 hours on 24 October 2017 whilst Welsh Government officials were present. Finally, there were 2 security guards on site on 31 October 2017 whilst surveys were being undertaken.

For your third and fourth questions, the Freedom of Information Act (Fol) provides a right to ask for recorded information held at the time a request is made. It does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide views or opinions where those views are not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner's guidance 'The Guide to Freedom of Information', page 7:

"The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in



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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 .

recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.”

On that basis, although you have labelled each of your questions as ‘FOI requests’, the Act does not oblige us to ‘explain’ or ‘confirm’ matters except insofar as such information is held in recorded form at the time the request was made. For the purposes of questions three and four, I can confirm that no such recorded information is held.

That said, I can advise that a weekly collection of an 1100 Litre General Waste Euro has been provided since the site was cleared on 7 July 2017, in order to clean the site and remove fly-tipping. Additional skips were also hired on 28 July for rubbish clearance and removal. There was an incident of fly-tipping on 23 February 2018. We arranged collection of the fly-tipped rubbish from the road, gate entrance and culvert. An estimated 12 loads of mixed rubbish was collected and removed from the site.

In terms of future plans for the site, there are currently development proposals, including potential business relocation for the site for the use in the proposed M4 Corridor around Newport road scheme.

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@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