



25 April 2018

Dear _____,

ATISN 12219 Table Talk Workshops

Thank you for your request which I received on 5 April 2018. You asked for information regarding the Table Talk events, specifically:

- a. The capacity of each venue.
- b. The cost of each venue including catering.
- c. The cost of the contract with Cazbah marketing & events.
- d. The cost of the contract with tocyn.cymru.
- e. The number of people who attended each event (not including those running the event).
- f. Any notes or recordings made of each event, including on feedback from the public.
- g. Any communication sent to Government ministers about the workshops.
- h. The result of votes at each workshop on questions in the Government's consultation.

Please provide:

1. The questions as put to attendees.
2. The overall number of people who answered 'yes' to each question.
3. The overall number of people who answered 'no' to each question.
4. The overall number of people who answered 'don't know' to each question.

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.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require for a, b, d to f and h and questions 1 to 4 is not currently held by the Welsh Government. The arrangements for the events were contracted to Cazbah, an independent external provider. Cazbah will provide an analysis of the events in due course which will form part of the overall consultation reporting.

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed at Annex A.

I have decided that some of the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and is therefore withheld. The reason for applying this exemption is set out in full at Annex B to this letter.

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

Yours sincerely

Annex A: Information released for FOI request ATISN 12219

Question c:

The value of the contract awarded to Cazbah was £24,999.

Annex B: Information withheld for FOI request AT SIN 12219

The following information is being withheld

Information being withheld	Section number and exemption name
g) Any communication sent to Government ministers about the workshops.	Section 22(1) of the FOIA –information intended for future publication

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of Sections 22(1) of the FOIA and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

Whilst a requester may have a legitimate interest in accessing the information, the effect of the FOIA is to make the requested information freely available to anyone and everyone to access and use. In considering whether any exemptions are engaged we have to consider the effects of this disclosure to the World at large rather than to those making the request.

Sections 22(1) “Information intended for future publication”

Regarding question g, whilst we can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some unverified information of this description, it is considered exempt under Section 22 of the FOIA. This states (inter alia):

1) *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 when 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).*

We can confirm that the conditions under (a), (b) and (c) are satisfied. The Table Talk events took place in March 2018 and formed part of an engagement campaign seeking to engage with stakeholders as part of the formal consultation.

The formal consultation on legislative proposals to remove the defence of reasonable punishment was launched on 9 January 2018. Following the closure of this consultation on 2 April 2018, a summary analysis report which includes the requested information will be published online as part of the planned consultation process.

Section 22 is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under it, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that of releasing it.

We recognise that there is a wide range of views about the Welsh Government’s commitment to introduce legislation to remove the defence of reasonable punishment. The manifesto commitment is reaffirmed in “Taking Wales Forward”, the Programme for Government, and in the national strategy “Prosperity for All” and the Welsh Government’s progress in delivering these is subject to scrutiny. In addition, there is a high level of public and media interest in this policy area, particularly due to the ongoing consultation exercise which was launched on 9 January and which closed on 2 April.

Whilst we acknowledge the information would be of public and media interest if released at this time, we believe proving incomplete information at this stage would be misleading and

not present the complete picture which will be detailed in the consultation analysis report. This report will take into consideration the responses received at the Table Talk events as part of the consultation.

We are of the view that it would provide the public with a clearer understanding of the issues and our actions if all of the information informing our decision making is released at the same time. We believe, therefore, that the requested information should be withheld under section 22 of the FOIA.