



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 12223

1 May 2018

Dear ,

### Request for Information - ATISN 12223

I wrote to you on 10 April, regarding your request for information regarding the provision for fast broadband across Wales. You asked:

1. How much money did the European Union provide to the Welsh Government as part of the deal with BT/Openreach
2. How much money did the Welsh Government provide in total for this work to be carried out
3. What safeguards and accountability did the contract have built in
4. Which Minister was responsible for the tender and ensuring that the work was carried out accordingly
5. What is the current status of the provision and is there a fixed time limit for the remainder of the work to be carried out to enable connection of fibre optic cable to the premises or using copper cable from the nearest fibre enabled cabinet
6. Do BT/Openreach have penalty clauses attached to the contract if they do not deliver on time, and if there is a monetary fine, can this be used to deploy private contractors to finish the work



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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.

I confirm we hold information captured by your request. For question one, the European Union provided £118,685,858 to deliver the Welsh Government's Superfast Cymru contract with BT.

For question two, I can confirm that the Welsh Government provided £38,754,142 in total for work to be carried out.

In response to question three, the Superfast Cymru contract is subject to regular audit from all funding parties including but not limited to the Wales Audit Office and the Wales European Funding office. The delivery of the Superfast Cymru contract was overseen by the Welsh Government's ICT Infrastructure Division through weekly, monthly and quarterly update meetings with BT/Openreach.

For question four, the Minister responsible for overseeing the tender of the Superfast Cymru contract was the then Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science, Edwina Hart. Responsibility for overseeing the delivery and closure of the contract currently sits with the Leader of the House and Chief Whip, Julie James AM.

In response to question five, the Superfast Cymru contract has now finished with access to fast-fibre broadband connectivity being made available to 679,736 properties across Wales (and with the final premises tally to be confirmed in due course pending final checks).

For your final question, retentions and penalty clauses were built into the Superfast Cymru contract. Should there be any financial penalty received as a result of BT failing to meet its contractual commitments, this will not be used to deploy private contractors to complete unfinished work but may be used to support future action to address broadband availability issues, subject to Ministerial approval. The Welsh Government is currently tendering for solutions to reach some of those premises not met under the Superfast Cymru project. A new circa£80million successor scheme will be launched later this year.

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](mailto:FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk), quoting 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. Note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely