

9 January 2019

Dear ,

### **ATISN 12830 Request for Information - Energy Advisors**

I wrote to you on 13 December regarding your request for information regarding the number of energy advisors that the Welsh Government and Lesley Griffiths have.

You asked:

- i) how many there are
- ii) what is the total budget for energy advisors
- iii) do they have to declare interests in commercial renewable energy companies or any other companies.

In my letter of 13 December, I explained that Welsh Government has interpreted your request as referring to specialist and political energy advisors and civil servants employed by Welsh Government to advise Welsh Ministers on energy policy. Given I have not received any response from you, I have considered your request on this basis. It has also been interpreted that you are referring to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.

Welsh Government does not hold any information caught by your request.

Welsh Government does not have any publicly appointed or external energy advisors. Welsh Ministers receive advice on energy policy matters from civil servants.

There is no budget allocated for energy advisors as defined above. We do not hold data on the cost of civil servants providing advice on energy matters as this forms part of the daily duties of the relevant officials.

Civil servants are bound by the Civil Service Code and required to declare any potential conflicts of interest. This would include any interests in commercial energy companies, where they are providing energy advice.

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: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@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