



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 13160

26 June 2019

Dear ,

**Request for Information – ATISN 13160**

I wrote to you on 22 May and 6 June in response to your request for information regarding the Welsh Government's committed '*... resource into facilitating, preparing for and supporting a proposal by Hitachi Limited to build a new nuclear power station in Anglesey*'.

You have asked for:

1. The Welsh Government's contingency planning at the outset, in the event of no replacement reactor at Wylfa.
2. The Welsh Government's discussion on the decision by Hitachi Limited on 17 January 2019 to suspend all further work on the Wylfa Newydd Project.
3. The Welsh Government's updated contingency measures on no replacement reactor in the wake of Project suspension and, in particular, Hitachi's subsequent dismantlement in April 2019 of Horizon Nuclear Power Wylfa Limited.

In my letter of 22 May, I asked you to provide further information for all three questions on what specifically you wanted me to search for. I confirmed the Welsh Government's interest in the building of Wylfa Newydd is in relation to the associated economic benefits which would inevitably arise from the project, once the decision had been made.

In relation to questions 1 and 3, whilst I am clear on the meaning of '*contingency planning*', I remain unclear on what specific information you want me to search for.

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 information that is 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 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."*

That said, I can confirm the Welsh Government does not have a specific '*contingency plan*' in relation to associated economic and other legacy benefits in the event the project did not proceed, other than its general policy for supporting economic development across all parts of Wales. Similarly, it does not have specific '*contingency measures on no replacement reactor*'. On that basis, no information is held for your first and third questions.

At point 3(c) of your e-mail dated 5 June, you asked for "*clarification on whether the proposed £600m infrastructure programme under the North Wales Growth Deal (para 14 in the [Urgent Question Transcript](#)) is wholly independent of all elements associated with a replacement reactor*". I can confirm that this figure does not relate to a replacement reactor. As previously explained, the Welsh Government is not responsible for building nuclear reactors. The Minister for Economy and Transport issued a [Written Statement](#) on 21 November 2018 regarding this particular expenditure.

Turning to your second question, as with questions 1 and 3, I remain unclear what information you want me to search for. Stating that the information you are referring to '*may involve discussion*' in possible meetings is not a sufficiently clear description. You have effectively asked for the Welsh Government's '*discussion*' on the announcement on 17 January 2019 to suspend the project. This was clearly a very significant announcement for Wales and there will have been many items of e-mail correspondence, telephone calls, meetings etc. across all parts of the Welsh Government, specific to the overall topic, or specific aspects of the project, potentially as part of a wider discussion. I am unable, therefore, to search for any information in relation to your second question. In order for me to search for information, you will need to submit a more focused request confirming whether you are requesting, for example, a search for minutes of meetings held after 17 January 2019 in the particular meetings you have listed, or whether the search should go beyond that scope such as e-mail and other correspondence. You should also specify whether you are interested in any particular area regarding the decision. When submitting a more focused request, please consider the volume of information we will likely hold. A focused and specific request, for example minutes of any meetings held after 17 January 2019, be they internal, external, or both, and entirely regarding the project, will likely fall within scope, whereas a broader request will likely be refused.

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