



Our ref: ATISN 13305
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear ,

Request for Information, reference number ATISN 13305

Thank you for your request, which I received on 19 July 2019. You asked for the following information:

A list of flights (both domestic and international) undertaken by Welsh Government Ministers between November 2018 and July 2019 and the destination of each flight and the name of the individual Minister who undertook the journey.

Part of the information you have requested (regarding overseas flights costing more than £500) is already available at the following link: <https://gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-5th-assembly>.

This information is published on an annual basis by financial year as required under the Ministerial Code.

In respect of the information from April 2019, some of the information you requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), information intended for future publication. As above, this information is published in line with the Ministerial Code.

Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

However, information regarding flights costing under £500 and internal flights is not routinely published, but is provided separately at Annex 2.

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

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 1

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to some of the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

Public interest arguments against disclosure

This information is published as a requirement in the Ministerial Code. This information will be published along with details of other Ministerial visits overseas according to the usual schedule. The information for the financial year 19/20 will be published in due course, after March next year.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and it is a long standing requirement that details of Ministerial visits overseas, including the costs, are published in line with the Ministerial Code.

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-5th-assembly>

Annex 2

List of Flights undertaken by Ministers between November 2018 and July 2019 (Non-overseas/overseas costing under £500 per trip)

Minister	Date	Destination(s)
Counsel General	26/11/2018	Edinburgh
Counsel General	26/11/2018	Cardiff
Counsel General	31/01/2019	Edinburgh
Counsel General	31/01/2019	Bristol
Counsel General	21/02/2019	Anglesey
Counsel General	21/02/2019	Cardiff
Counsel General	11/03/2019	Strasbourg
Counsel General	13/03/2019	Cardiff
Counsel General	28/03/2019	Belfast
Counsel General	28/03/2019	Cardiff
Counsel General	02/05/2019	Belfast
Counsel General	02/05/2019	Cardiff
Counsel General	05/08/2019	Anglesey
Counsel General	06/08/2019	Cardiff
Eluned Morgan	14/06/2018	Cardiff
Eluned Morgan	25/01/2019	Anglesey
Eluned Morgan	25/01/2019	Cardiff
Eluned Morgan	13/06/2019	Dublin
First Minister	28/02/2019	Cardiff
First Minister	29/03/2019	Anglesey
First Minister	16/05/2019	Anglesey
First Minister	06/08/2019	Anglesey
First Minister	21/02/2019	Anglesey
First Minister	21/02/2019	Cardiff
Julie Morgan	29/05/2019	Belfast
Julie Morgan	29/05/2019	Cardiff
Ken Skates	11/03/2019	Geneva
Lord Elis-Thomas	07/03/2019	Anglesey
Vaughan Gething	21/02/2019	Anglesey
Vaughan Gething	21/02/2019	Cardiff
Vaughan Gething	11/04/2019	Anglesey
Vaughan Gething	02/05/2019	Anglesey
Vaughan Gething	06/06/2019	Anglesey
Vaughan Gething	06/06/2019	Cardiff
Vaughan Gething	10/06/2019	Ljubljana
Vaughan Gething	12/06/2019	London, Gatwick