



## Email request

Our ref: ATISN 13320  
Date: 13 August 2019

Dear ,

### Request for Information – ATISN reference 13320

Thank you for your request which I received on 28 July 2019. You asked for information regarding the process whereby Welsh Government departments formally consult The Prince of Wales and his staff about Bills which may have implications for him as The Duke of Cornwall and or his Duchy of Cornwall estate. You are specifically interested in information from the period 1 January 2014 to 1 January 2016, whether or not the Bill made it onto the statute book. For each relevant Bill in that period, you have asked for:

- the name of the Bill and the sponsoring Minister(s),
- the date Prince's consent was sought,
- which Ministers or officials sought Prince's consent,
- who the Welsh Government contacted when seeking consent,
- whether Prince's consent was granted or not, and if it was, the date of consent and the date it was announced to the National Assembly for Wales.

I have decided that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because the information is already publicly available on the Welsh Government and National Assembly for Wales websites, as set out below.

The Welsh Government sends Bills to the Queen and/or Duke of Cornwall, after they are introduced into the National Assembly for Wales when necessary to fulfil a requirement under Section 111 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and Standing Order 26.67 of the National Assembly for Wales. These provide that:

- the consent of Her Majesty the Queen and/or the Duke of Cornwall is required when a Bill, a provision of a Bill or an amendment to a Bill would affect the prerogative of the Crown or significantly affect the interests of the Crown, Duchy of Lancaster or Duchy of Cornwall; and
- the Assembly must not debate whether a Bill be passed until the Government has, during a meeting of the Assembly, signified that consent has been given.

Further information on the process is set out in paragraphs 12.18 – 12.26 of the Welsh Government’s Legislation Handbook on Assembly Bills, available at <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/legislation-handbook-on-assembly-bills.pdf>.

The following Bills were submitted for this purpose between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2016:

Title	Signification of Duke of Cornwall’s consent	Information about the Bill
Planning (Wales) Bill	<a href="http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3165&amp;assembly=4#C218531">http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3165&amp;assembly=4#C218531</a>	<a href="http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=11271">http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=11271</a>
Historic Environment (Wales) Bill	<a href="http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3537&amp;assembly=4#C274347">http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3537&amp;assembly=4#C274347</a>	<a href="http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=12573">http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=12573</a>
Environment (Wales) Bill	<a href="http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3537&amp;assembly=4#C274347">http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=3537&amp;assembly=4#C274347</a>	<a href="http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=12572">http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=12572</a>

I have also concluded that communications in respect of the Prince of Wales are exempt from release under Section 37 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, specifically section 37(1)(a) communications with the Sovereign and section 37(1)(aa) communications with the heir to, or the person who is for the time being second in line of succession to, the Throne. Section 37 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

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.of.information@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.of.information@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