



2 January 2020

Dear ,

Complaint in respect of your Freedom of Information request ATISN 13571

At the request of the Welsh Government's Director of Housing, John Howells, I have conducted an internal review of the decision in relation to your Freedom of Information request ATISN13571 in response to your request of 4 December.

1. In relation to your first point, I understand this to relate to section 22(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the 2000 Act") which requires that for information to be exempt if it is intended for future publication, the information must have been held with a view to publication at the time when the request for information was made.

The decision to commission research into the future housing needs of older people was taken by the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 14 August and the Decision Report was published on the Welsh Government website on 3 September. The purpose of commissioning the research was to inform the Welsh Government's consideration of policy responses to the ageing population in Wales. I have reviewed the advice provided to the Minister in August and noted that it stated approval would be sought to share the research with local authorities, Regional Partnership Boards and other relevant stakeholders in due course.

The final version of the report was received by Welsh Government officials from the contractor on 25 October. The report was submitted to the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 3 December with a recommendation that it should be published. Whilst this date is after the 15 November when your original FOI request was received, I have concluded nevertheless, on the basis of the advice to the Minister in August, that it was always the intention to make public and disseminate this research and that the recommendation to the Minister on 3 December was seeking the approval referred to in the earlier advice.

2. In relation to your second point, I understand this to relate to section 22(c) of the 2000 Act, that for information intended for publication to be exempt, it must also be reasonable in all the circumstances to withhold it until the intended publication date.

Whilst I have concluded that it was and is the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Housing LIN report and that the original decision to withhold the information pending publication under section 22 of the 2000 Act has some justification, I do not consider the justification is sufficiently strong to continue to withhold the information. I have therefore decided to reverse the original decision and release the information requested.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in releasing this information. The draft Housing LIN report for the Welsh Government, *Assessment of the demand for specialist housing and accommodation for older people in Wales* was sent to you by email on 19 December. I will ensure you are notified when the final report is published on the Welsh Government website.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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.

Yours sincerely

IAN WILLIAMS
Deputy Director, Homes and Places