



2 June 2020

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 13955

I wrote to you on 5 May regarding your request for information relating to Community Banking / ATMs. You asked the following –

1. Have Welsh Government officials have been discussing the plans for a community bank with the credit union movement in Wales?
2. If so, can you provide any documents that show that the Welsh Government has been in discussion with the credit union movement in terms of providing an alternative (through existing credit union arrangements) to the plans for a community bank for Wales (i.e. Banc Cambria)?
3. Can you confirm that the Welsh Government has provided seed funding to help develop the case for Banc Cambria in 2019-20?
4. Can you confirm the amount granted and to which organisation these funds were paid?
5. Can you confirm that this funding did not undergo formal tendering procedures as required under public sector rules. If so, can you confirm why this was the case?
6. Can you provide details of how this funding was spent? (e.g. consultancy, staff expenditure)?
7. How much funding has been allocated by the Welsh Government to undertake further work on the case for a community bank in Wales (Banc Cambria) in the 2020-21 budget?
8. Has the allocation or amount of this funding been changed at all as a result of the Covid 19 crisis?

I can confirm that we hold some of the information relating to your request which can be seen below.

1. Welsh Government officials have attended meetings with representatives of the Welsh credit union movement where the Community Bank was on the agenda. Officials have also held discussions with an individual Credit Union to discuss collaboration within the social finance ecosystem as part of Community Bank policy development.



2. The Welsh Government has not received any proposals from the Welsh Credit Union movement to establish an alternative community bank.
3. The Welsh Government has provided initial stage seed funding to support the development of a community bank for Wales.
4. Seed funding of £75,000 to Cambria Cydfuddiannol Ltd.
5. The Welsh Government provided seed funding to a start-up business under the De-minimis regulation. The proposal is not subject to procurement regulations as it is regarded as an outcome based intervention and assistance with a start-up for people and companies based in communities across Wales.
6. The purpose of the funding was to enable the completion of stakeholder engagement, project plan, initial market assessment and feasibility study required to ascertain the viability for the establishment of a Community Bank in Wales.
7. The Welsh Government has agreed additional seed funding of up to £90,000 to start-up company Cambria Cydfuddiannol Ltd.
8. Seed funding provided to a start-up business for the purposes previously outlined are considered in the context of the results of the feasibility study and emergent strategic factors including the Coronavirus pandemic.

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