



Our ref: ATISN 14173
Date: 30 July 2020

Dear ,

ATISN 14173

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 July 2020. You asked the following:

- 1. How many acres of land the Welsh Government owns, and an estimation of their value*
- 2. How many property assets the Welsh Government owns, and an estimation of their value*
- 3. How many acres of land the Welsh Government has bought and sold in the last two financial years, and their value*
- 4. How many property assets the Welsh Government has bought and sold in the last two financial years, and their value.*

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if it calculates that dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

Land and building assets are controlled by the individual departments who make use of them. The main departments involved would be:-

- Administrative Estate (predominantly the operational offices)
- Transport and infrastructure (Trunk Roads and Motorways, Rail etc.)
- Economy property division (land and buildings to support economic development)
- Land Division (sites with potential to support housing development)
- Cadw (historic asset portfolio)

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require each department extrapolating information from their sources and compiling it for inclusion in a response. For the purposes of calculating the appropriate limit, I have assessed that the combined total time to locate and compile the information requested would be over 62 hours. That does not include accounting for the very considerable time it would take to carry out an analysis of the extensive highway network.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information or asset department use you particularly wish to obtain. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

Welsh Government does publish annual accounts (link below). The current publication contains high-level information about assets including financial value (top line page 85). In addition, value information on asset purchase and disposals is included (page 86).

<https://gov.wales/welsh-government-consolidated-annual-accounts-2018-2019>

Welsh Government also publishes an annual state of the estate report specifically covering the assets overseen by the administrative estate. A link to the most recent version is attached below. It contains details of the number of properties held and provides information on size, costs and performance.

<https://gov.wales/state-estate-report-2018-to-2019>

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 e-mail: 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