



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref ATISN 14385

2 December 2020

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 14385

I wrote to you on 12 October regarding your request for information. I explained that your original request would likely be very time consuming to deal with and advised you that it would be helpful if you could provide a more specific request for information. Your refined request for information was received on 14 October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing you with this response.

Your request

You asked for:

- The application(s) for Their Finest Hour, in order to see how and why the production was granted £2,000,000. If an application includes the total budget for Their Finest Hour, and what the £2,000,000 would be spent on, that would answer my query.

Our response

I can confirm we hold some information captured by your request. As this was a commercial investment, there was no application form. The process for accessing funding was via the Welsh Government's former Collaboration Agreement with Pinewood, who made an assessment of the commercial viability and negotiated a commercial position for Welsh Government. The terms of the agreement were then presented to an independent panel of industry experts, 'the media investment panel'. The decision of the panel was ratified by Ministers. A suite of commercial documents were then prepared by all investment partners and agreed by Welsh Government lawyers.

The recoupment on investments via the Media Investment Budget has been made public following a review by Senedd Cymru's Public Accounts Committee and also its



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding .

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee. This was widely reported on the Senedd Cymru website and also in the media:

<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld12165/cr-ld12165-e.pdf>
<https://business.senedd.wales/ielssueDetails.aspx?Id=22284&Opt=3>
<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/welsh-government-films-pinewood-studios-17561213>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-51207094>

The information you requested which is held by the Welsh Government is that the Welsh Government provided £2m of investment into Their Finest, with the total budgeted costs of the film being £7,986,208. The Welsh Government investment consisted of:

- £1.5m as gap funding (“Welsh Gap”);
- £500,000 as mezzanine funding (“Welsh Mezzanine”);

Out of the recoupment schedule for the film, the Welsh Government was expected to recoup its investment as follows:

- Wales to recoup the Welsh Mezzanine plus a 4% premium (out of a total premium of 14%); then
- Wales to recoup the Welsh Gap plus a 2% premium (out of a total premium of 8%); then
- Net profits of which at least 12% to Wales.

In addition to recoupment of the funds, the production was expected to achieve the following key outputs in Wales:

- Wales Spend will be no less than £1,300,000;
- at least 50% of the total number of days of principal photography will take place in Wales; and
- the Production Company shall employ at least four Welsh workers for the duration of production of the film in Wales in recognised “trainee” roles to be pre-agreed with Pinewood Film Advisors Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government.

As of December last year, the Welsh Government had fully recouped the original £2m investment, plus an additional £50,000. In addition, the film spent £1.6m in Wales, well above the £1.3m it was expected to achieve.

Next steps

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