



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 14539
Date: 4 December 2020

Dear

ATISN 14539

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 November 2020. Further to the response that was issued to you in relation to ATISN 14434, I have set out my response to the questions you submitted regarding:

'Outline Planning Application by Welsh Government to Vale of Glamorgan County Council for 576 residential units at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock'. The Vale of Glamorgan Planning Register reference is: <http://vogonline.planning-register.cuk/PlaRecord.aspx?AppNo=2020/01170/OUT>

- when exactly did the Welsh Government tell the Council to increase the allocation of land for housing in that LDP;

As part of the Independent Inspector's examination of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan it was considered additional land was required to ensure the Local Development Plan delivered adequate homes to meet the identified housing need. The Inspector considered the Vale of Glamorgan had over relied on windfall sites to deliver the identified housing need. The additional land at Cosmeston was put forward by the Council under Matters Arising Changes during the preparation of the Local Development Plan.

- what was its logic for doing so, enclosing the detailed calculations behind it, please

This was a matter for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Inspector who considered the soundness of the Local Development Plan. The Vale of Glamorgan identified the initial allocation at Cosmeston as having the potential to be increased in size.

- when did the Welsh Government ask the Council to designate this land to help meet the requirement for more housing;

The site was allocated in the deposit Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

- any correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Vale about this land.

I can confirm that with regard to part 4 of your request, this still exceeds the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations. 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.

A *limited* search of the Welsh Government's records system has been carried out using the following parameters:

- (document) date updated is 1st January 2020 onwards;
- results limited to 1000; and
- key word or phrases (Cosmeston; and separately Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan).

The *limited* searches identified the following number of documents which includes emails, word & excel documents, PDFs etc:

- Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan – 1000 documents found; and
- Cosmeston – 1000 documents found.

In order to establish if any of the information within the *limited* search fell within the scope of your request would require each document to be reviewed. If each document took 5 minutes to review, the limit would be exceeded against *each* key word/phrase (1000*5/60). The limit would be further exceeded by any exercise to:

- determine whether any documents over the *limited* search i.e. removing the 1000 limit are within the scope of your request (such documents might relate to 2020 but also, previous years); and
- any exercise to locate, extract and retrieve information held which falls within the scope of your request where the title of the document does not contain the key word/phrase used above - therefore requiring further searches to be conducted.

If you are able to refocus your request to a specific piece of information (as opposed to *any* information that might be held and in multiple forms), that may bring any required searches to within the appropriate limit.

Any redefined question will be treated as a new request for information.

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely