



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15611
Date: 23 November 2021

Dear

ATISN 15611

Thank you for your request which I received on 20 October 2021. You asked for the following information:

- 1) How many times has the Vaughan Gething MS or his office requested to meet the Secretary of State or other ministers in the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy since being appointed Economy Minister in the Welsh Government?
- 2) How many times has Vaughan Gething MS or his office met the Secretary of State or other ministers in the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy since being appointed Economy Minister in the Welsh Government?
- 3) Has Vaughan Gething MS or his office refused a request to meet by the Secretary of State or other ministers in the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy since being appointed Economy Minister in the Welsh Government?

Meetings should include those in person, online, or by phone.

To answer your questions in order

1) Once

2) The information you have requested prior to the end of September 2021 is exempt under Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Details of Ministerial meetings and engagements, including with UK government Ministers, are published in line with the Ministerial code. The information has been published and is available at the following <https://gov.wales/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements>

The Information you have requested from October 2021 is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter. This information will be available at <https://gov.wales/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements> in January 2022

3) No

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

Annex 1

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

Public interest arguments against disclosure

The intended publication date is in the not too distant future.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and Ministerial attendance at engagements and events is published quarterly. The information for October- December 2021 will be published in early January 2022

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information in relation to Ministerial meetings should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following link:
<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministerial-code/?lang=en>