

18 October 2022

Dear

ATISN 16669

Thank you for your request which I received on 20 September 2022. You asked for the following information:

Part 1

How many trips the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, has taken in Welsh Government ministerial vehicles since his appointment in May 2021?

How many miles were covered during those trips, and where the journeys started and ended?

Part 2

How many overseas trips have been made by Welsh Government ministers since May 2021 via aeroplane?

A breakdown of where they went and how much each trip cost (plane tickets, accommodation and sustenance)?

In relation to part 1 of your request, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, has taken 114 journeys in Welsh Government ministerial vehicles since his appointment in May 2021. The Welsh Government does not record the mileage of individual journeys. Where these journeys started and ended is listed at Annex 2.

In relation to part 2, I have concluded that the information you requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), information intended for future publication. Details of Ministerial visits overseas are published in line with the Ministerial code and this information will be published with the next tranche of information in October 2022 and then following the end of the financial year 2022-2023.

Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

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

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

This information is published as a requirement in the Ministerial code. This information will be published along with details of other Ministerial visits overseas according to the usual schedule. The return for 2021-2022 is in the final stages of preparation, while the information for the financial year 2022-2023 will be published after March 2023

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and it is a long-standing requirement that details of Ministerial visits overseas, including the costs, are published in line with the Ministerial code.

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 should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-6th-assembly>

Annex 2

| START | END |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Cardiff | West Cardiff |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Penarth | Newport |
| Newport | Penarth |
| Penarth | Pendoylan |
| Pendoylan | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Penarth | Abergavenny |
| Abergavenny | Blaenawey |
| Blaenawey | Penarth |
| Llanelli | Swansea x2 |
| Swansea | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Taffs Well |
| Taffs Well | Penarth |
| Penarth | Llanbedr |
| Llanbedr | Holyhead |
| Holyhead | Beaumaris |
| Beaumaris | Gaerwen |
| Gaerwen | Llangefni |
| Llangefni | Blaenau Ffestiniog |
| Blaenau Ffestiniog | Llanrwst |
| Llanrwst | Bangor |
| Bangor | Rhyl |
| Rhyl | Llangollen |
| Llangollen | Ruthin |
| Ruthin | Bangor |
| Bangor | Llandudno Junction |
| Llandudno Junction | Llandudno |
| Llandudno | Wrexham |
| Wrexham | Penarth |
| Llanelli | Merthyr Tydfil |
| Merthyr Tydfil | Pontypridd |
| Pontypridd | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Penarth | Chepstow |
| Chepstow | Penarth |
| Penarth | National Botanical Gardens, Carmarthenshire |
| National Botanical Gardens, | Cardiff |

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| Carmarthenshire | |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Cardiff Bay | Cardiff Centre |
| Cardiff Centre | Cardiff Bay |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Penarth | Newport |
| Newport | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Penarth | Neath |
| Neath | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Culverhouse Cross | Newport |
| Newport | Cwmbran |
| Cwmbran | Culverhouse Cross |
| Penarth | Cardiff Bay |
| Cardiff Bay | Cardiff City Centre |
| Llanelli | Cwmbran |
| Cwmbran | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Coventry |
| Coventry | Kenilworth |
| Kenilworth | Penarth |
| Penarth | Whitchurch |
| Whitchurch | Penarth |
| Llanelli | Newport |
| Newport | Bodelwyddan |
| Bodelwyddan | Gwynedd |
| Gwynedd | Llanelli |
| Cardiff Bay | Cathays Park |
| Penarth | Cardiff Bay |
| Cardiff Bay | Newport |
| Newport | Cardiff Bay |
| Penarth | Cathays Park |
| Cathays Park | Penarth |
| Llanelli | Carmarthenshire |
| Carmarthenshire | Capel Isaf |
| Capel Isaf | Amroth |
| Amroth | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Bristol |
| Bristol | Penarth |
| Penarth | Taff's Wells |
| Taff's Wells | Cardiff Bay |
| Cardiff Bay | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff Bay |
| Cardiff Bay | Sophia Gardens |

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|----------------|--------------|
| Sophia Gardens | Llanelli |
| Penarth | Machynlleth |
| Machynlleth | Beaumaris |
| Beaumaris | Holyhead |
| Holyhead | Holyhead |
| Holyhead | Bangor |
| Bangor | Llandudno |
| Llandudno | Conwy |
| Conwy | Flintshire |
| Flintshire | Flintshire |
| Flintshire | Llandudno |
| Llandudno | Flintshire |
| Flintshire | Flintshire |
| Flintshire | Denbighshire |
| Denbighshire | Wrexham |
| Wrexham | Penarth |
| Penarth | Cardiff |
| Cardiff | Penarth |
| Cathays Park | Llanelli |