

Outcome of an Internal Review

Dear ,

04 July 2024

Complaint in respect of ATISN 20388

I apologise for the delay with this response.

With reference to your email 29th May requesting a formal Internal Review of the response to your FOI request about Fibre To The Property (FTTP) for Llanblethian community I have been asked to respond.

Having examined the case, I have determined that your query and request for information relates to the process of prioritisation and funding that exists for Welsh Government (WG) funded FTTP rollout delivered by BT Openreach. WG do not prioritise or programme individual community installations and rely on BT Openreach for this process, although they are informed of this programme through packages of work that WG effectively “sign off” ahead of the build commencing in an area. This is undertaken on an All-Wales basis with WG determining available funding, the overall project delivery timescales and which premises across Wales as a whole are eligible. BT Openreach prioritise, programme and organise the rollout installation including determining which of the eligible premises are addressed.

BT Openreach are appointed through a competitive process and as such their commercial data needs to be withheld from public sharing. This includes how they build up their rates for programming and prioritising rollout of FTTP. They also compete for other publicly funded broadband projects, in addition to their own commercially driven roll-outs, as such access to BT Openreach commercially sensitive information will give their competitors an advantage.

Therefore, I have concluded that WG were correct in their response to withhold information under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act, as the process of prioritisation and programming (your queries 1-5) are managed by BT Openreach. Release of information related to the deployment of FTTP in Llanblethian would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of BT Openreach, who would have assessed this as part of their programming process, including build-up of rates and programmes of work. Release into the public domain of the information relating to speed expectations (your query 6) would also be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of BT Openreach.

However, I believe WG could have assisted you with this understanding by setting out the process described above in the acknowledgement letter, so that you could direct your FOI request accordingly.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Barnes

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