

23 July 2024

Dear

ATISN: 20759 – VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING CONTROL FINANCES

Thank you for your request which was received on 15.07.24. You asked for:

How much money Vale of Glamorgan Building Control have spent in not refunding the applicant their fee for building control services.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

Next steps

We have received further correspondence from yourself, both prior to and post the Freedom of Information request, and as such respond to the key matters raised as follows:

1. Email Received 13.07.24

I would also like your justification on their behaviour. Is this government policy to waste money?

WG Response:

If you are dissatisfied with a service provided by the local authority you would need to follow their complaints policy procedure

2. Correspondence Received 28.06.24

I would like a copy of documents relating to what a regularisation inspection should involve, what the inspector should be capable of, what they should be reporting and how

WG Response:

The above information would be held by the local authority in question. Welsh Government do not hold this information.

3. Correspondence Received 20.06.24

I would like to know what the performance criteria Building control inspectors worked to in 2021 / 2022 was. I have found this document, could you please confirm it was in place in 2020/2021:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ffe1d40f0b62302690dd7/Building_Control_Performance_Standards_2017_Final.pdf

WG Response:

Prior to the building control industry reform, notably the introduction of the BICoF as referenced, the document referred to in your correspondence was government guidance for the building control profession. It has no statutory standing. It was for the building control bodies (public and private sector building control) to interpret the guidance and set their policy procedures.

4. Correspondence Received 20.06.24

I would like to know what was expected of building inspectors during a regularisation inspection in 2021 / 2022 - ie. what was their role in regularisation inspections.

WG Response:

The requirements of building inspectors in undertaking regularisation inspections would be determined by the operational procedures policy instigated by the local authority, this is not a policy area established by Welsh Government.

5. Correspondence Received 20.06.24

I would like to know about the reporting of inspections. - What was the process for reporting inspections in 2021/2022.

WG Response:

This would be a process established by the local authority.

6. Correspondence Received 20.06.24

I would like to know the competence criteria for building control officers in 2021/22.

WG Response:

Performance criteria would be established by the local authority in question, in line with their operational procedures policy.

7. Correspondence Received 09.06.24

I understand from Part 5.58c if a builders workmanship is unknown to an inspector they will inspect it a little closer than someone they have worked with for years. If the homeowner complains about the builder it may indicate a need to investigate the work closer still? Is my interpretation correct and was anything like this regulation in place in 2021/2022?

I would like to know what the complaints process was for customers in 2021/2022.

WG Response:

There are a number of factors listed that may affect inspection and enforcement that inspectors need to have an awareness. It is for the

local authority to assess the different scenario's and implement these through their operational procedures policy.

Complaints procedures would be established by the local authority, and not an area set by Welsh Government

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