

29 August 2024

Dear

ATISN 20776 – Spending Against the International Relations Budget

Thank you for your request for information received on 19 July and for your clarification provided on 31 July. In your original email you asked for:

A further detailed breakdown of the following individual budget lines:

1. *International Engagement*
2. *Overseas Network*
3. *Overseas Operations.*

On 31 July you clarified 'further detailed breakdown' as:

“.. itemised budget lines for each and every cost associated with each budget line that you have already provided.”

Response

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. 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.

In order to provide you with the information you have requested, we would need to commission the retrieval of individual transactions that make up budget spend for 2023-24. Our budget, which includes spend across our overseas network, has returned 9664 individual transactions

Looking at the transaction lines, it is estimated that it would take 30 seconds to determine if an individual line was in scope and carry out any formatting that would include redactions to comply with GDPR and Data Protection legislation. Two lines would therefore take 1 minute. Based on this calculation, 9664 transactions would take just over 80 hours to complete. We would also need to add to this calculation a minimum of 4 hours of a senior officers time to review the transactions before the information was released.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

Next steps

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