



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 9252

23 March, 2015

David T C Davies MP
Member for Monmouth
16 Maryport Street
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david.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Davies

Request for Information – ATISN 9252

Thank you for your reply of 5 March in which you refined your request for information. You asked for all emails or written correspondence which relate to any decision to award a grant of more than £1 million to any company over the last three years within the Departments of Economy, Science and Transport and Finance and Government Business.

I confirm that we hold information which relates to your request. I have undertaken an initial search for the information you want but have reached the conclusion that it will still cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

I have based my estimate on a sample search undertaken by one official within the Economy, Science and Transport Department on one particular type of grant, and also



a wider search of our egrant system. The first sample search identified 47 grants of one particular type awarded within the Economy, Science and Transport Department. On average, 6 staff would be involved with the administration of each grant and each member of staff would have to conduct relevant searches to identify emails or correspondence relevant to the request. An initial scoping exercise of our egrant system has identified that the Welsh Government (excluding WEFO) has awarded 2,283 grants with a value of £1million or more, over the 3 year period.

It would be necessary to sift through all of the relevant information relevant to all of these grants to extract the information you have requested because the search would return several items which are not relevant, are duplicate documents or outside of the period specified. I have estimated that this work alone on one particular type of grant would take approximately 47 working hours. Expanding the search to encompass the whole of the Economy, Science and Transport and Finance and Government Business Departments would greatly increase this figure.

On this basis, I have estimated it would far exceed 24 working hours to respond to your request. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

You may wish to attempt to refine your request further by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any companies or organisations who have been awarded grants that you may have a particular interest in. For example is there a specific letter or piece of correspondence you are seeking on a particular project? If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

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: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

Helen Williams
Operations Manager – Investment Advisory Team