

26 November 2021

Dear

## **ATISN 15636 - Funding for the National Trust**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 1 November 2021. You asked for information regarding grants and contributions made by Welsh Government to the National Trust. After officials from Cadw wrote to you on 15 November explaining we were having difficulty location information you require, you clarified the request as:

- Grants and contributions made to the National Trust in financial years from Welsh Government (excluding Cadw grants) for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21;
- Business cases, justification and/or description of public benefit for the payments.

You provided us with a statement of grants and contributions provided by the National Trust highlighting WG grants in 2021 of £157,000 and 2020 of £259,000 as being the grant monies you were interested in.

### **Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

### **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 Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto: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

## Annex 1: Payments

Our finance systems search has yielded the following payments for the period:

1	Energy	16/07/2019	£3,313.80
	Environment &		
2	Communities	23/04/2020	£138,202.73
3	Tourism	19/11/2018	£17,473.00
4	Tourism	06/12/2018	£24,421.26
5	Tourism	25/07/2019	£42,105.74
6	Tourism	01/04/2020	£72,393.39
7	Tourism	27/05/2020	£19,599.16
8	Tourism	24/12/2020	£8,692.23
9	Tourism	17/05/2021	£19,268.90
10	Welsh Language Division	17/04/2018	£6,480.00

Further details on these are below. However I note that, even allowing for differences in reporting year, the figures I have found do not match the figures published by the National Trust that you drew our attention to. In your clarification, the National Trust had reported receiving £259,000 in 2020 and £157,000 in 2021.

I believe the discrepancy comes from payments to the National Trust under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). These are not accounted in the same way in our finance systems and do not show in the above search, but in any case information on payments made under CAP are exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOIA – Information reasonably accessible by another means.

Details of CAP payments made from 16/10/2018 (2019 FY) to 15/10/2020 (2020 FY) can be found at the [Defra, UK - CAP Payments Search \(https://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk\)](https://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk). This search system includes all payments from Welsh Government. A description of the measures supported by these payments are published on the same site here: [https://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/Download/Ares\(2018\)1833750-rev6-Measures\\_description-EN.pdf](https://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/Download/Ares(2018)1833750-rev6-Measures_description-EN.pdf).

In addition to the CAP payments we made the following grant payments in the period you are interested in:

### Energy

Payment 1 in the above schedule was a grant from our non-domestic rates scheme to support small scale hydro electric power with rate relief. Although we do not hold a business case as such for this grant, it is included as a case study in our Energy Generation in Wales publication, which I am providing as an annex (annex 2) to this response.

### Environment & Communities

Payment 2 in the above schedule is a grant payment for the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing (ENRaW) - Tir Afon project (one year large scale).

The business case provided to us for this project is as follows:

*Tir Afon - The Upper Conwy Natural Resources and Wellbeing Project / Prosiect Adnoddau Naturiol a Lles Uwch Conwy* is a large landscape scale partnership project which is working towards a cleaner, healthier catchment which benefits people and nature. *Tir Afon* will deliver the National Trust's *Playing our Part* strategy in Snowdonia within the *Land & Nature* programme (L&N), as well as the 7 goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 (Wales). We will manage our own land, and support land management decisions of others in the Upper Conwy catchment to develop resilience in the ecology and natural resources of the environment and benefit people's well-being.

There is lack of formal indoor leisure facilities in the Upper Conwy area due to its rural nature, a fact that is recognised in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation and despite there being thousands of acres of spectacular countryside there are barriers preventing people from accessing the land, both physical and perceived. Working with Conwy Council's Exercise Referral Scheme, *Tir Afon* will extend the existing programme of gym referrals by local General Practitioners (GP) to include additional outdoor elements. This project seeks to improve exercise referral provision to enable a GP to prescribe outdoor exercise as an intervention for tackling and preventing physical and mental health problems as well as childhood obesity. This will strengthen and embed the initial exercise prescribed programme by utilising the abundant and beautiful natural resources available in the Upper Conwy to facilitate walks, cycling and electric bike sessions to extend the recovery programme. *Tir Afon* will build an individual's confidence by effectively 'hand-holding' during outdoor activities which may normally be daunting to them, and gradually remove those barriers to accessing a healthy environment as an output of the project – an environment which this project will enhance.

We will apply best practice in how we work and collaborate with partners, land owners and communities in Upper Conwy; and by working in a way that is integrated, provide long term benefits in the project area and downstream. Based on what we learn by implementing *Tir Afon*, we aim to influence policy and high level decision-making to deliver a more resilient catchment and a more resilient Wales in future. We will connect communities to the heritage of the Upper Conwy by providing opportunities for people to enjoy, understand and care for the land and the rivers, bridging the gap between health and the environment.

I am attaching our grant offer letter for this project at annex 3 to this response.

## **Tourism Payments**

The Tourism payments, payments 3-8 on the above schedule relate to this scheme:

Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020 – Rural Community Development Fund  
– Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme

There are two grant awards. The first award accounts for payments 3,4 and 5 on the above schedule. These payments relate to:

Date grant approved: 1 November 2017

Project Cost: £105,000

Grant Awarded £84,000

Brief Project Description: Project is to add 2 new 'Customer Experience Hubs' (CEH) at 2 of the key honeypot beach locations along the Llyn Peninsular. The sites are Porthdinllaen and Porthor (Whistling Sands) which are the most iconic and popular sites in the region with each receiving upwards of 100k visitors a year.

The second grant accounts for payments 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the above schedule and these payments relate to:

Date grant approved: 18 December 2018

Project Cost: £149,942.10

Grant Awarded £ £119,953.68

Brief Project Description: National Trust Marloes Sands – Creating WOW welcome at Marloes Sands: The Marloes Peninsular Visitor Experience project will include car parking improvements, replacement visitor welcome building, improved access track to Runwayskiln café & hostel, including improved disabled access, improved facilities for cyclists and improved signage & interpretation.

For the above projects we do not hold business cases. Grants were awarded based on recommendations from our Regional Analysts from the first grant round and based on expressions of interest.

## **Welsh Language**

This payment was made in 2017-18 as a grant to produce interesting and interactive resources on the History of the Welsh language through six Objects – the total grant for this work was £6,480.

Although there was no business case as such, the project description provided by the National Trust for this project was as follows:

The project includes 3 activities that have been developed in response to evidence gathered through consultation with staff and volunteers in the development of a Welsh Language Development Plan for the National Trust (this Scheme is attached to the application, for information). They therefore meet specific needs, and in practical ways, to achieve the aim and objectives of this scheme. We know, from the consultation and pilot work we have undertaken over the past 18 months, that increasing people's awareness and interest in the Welsh language, in ways that take account of the range of attitudes and interests among a community of people, is a key part of growing

support at all levels and therefore important to achieving the aim of creating a bilingual workforce. The activities in the project reflect this understanding. It also reflects our desire to work in partnership across the wider heritage sector to realise our plan and contribute to the sector.

In summary the projects include:

- 1) Develop interesting and interactive materials about the Welsh language, on the theme of 'History of the Welsh Language through the Medium of Six Objects', in order to use them in presentation sessions for new National Trust staff and volunteers.

**Target group** : NT staff and Volunteers, at all levels and in all parts of Wales. **Linguistic outcomes** : Staff and volunteers are aware of the history of the Welsh language and of the objectives, policy and standards of the NT in relation to the Welsh language, understand expectations and know how to receive training, and feel more confident to use the language knowing that they have a corporate mandate to do so.

- 2) Run a two-day pilot course on 'Welsh in the Landscape' for people working outdoors.

**Target group** : NT staff and volunteers from Pembroke National Park who work outdoors, lead tours for the public and engage with farmers and local communities.

**Linguistic outcomes** : More people understand the significance of the Welsh language around them, can pronounce place names correctly, can use simple phrases and can share enthusiasm for the Welsh language with visitors.

- 3) Undertake a pilot activity to create a sustainable approach to collaboration between clusters of organisations in the heritage sector to provide informal learning opportunities for new networks of people who are at the same level in terms of their spoken Welsh.

**Target group** : People in different heritage organisations in a particular geographical area who are at the same level in terms of their language skills but find it difficult to move forward because of a lack of practice.

**Linguistic outcomes**: More people feel confident to use their Welsh in the workplace and feel that they have been boosted to carry on learning.