



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ref: **ATISN 15722**

Via e-mail:

2nd December 2021.

Dear

ATISN 15722 - Potential Impacts of Solar Development on Land Quality.

Thank you for your request which I received on the 29th November 2021. You asked for:

A copy of all correspondence, documents and reports in relation to the Soil Policy Evidence Programme work package SPEP 2021-22/03 – “The impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) sites on soil and agricultural land quality”.

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 that you have requested, I have estimated that it would require a minimum of 51 hours for us to determine whether we hold the information and to locate, retrieve and extract it. This is based on a sampling exercise looking at the scope of the task, multiplied up by all officials with whom it would need to be repeated. The reason this is time consuming is that to find *all* correspondence and documents on a matter it is necessary to review a much larger body of correspondence. Documents must be located and reviewed to determine if they are in scope. This is a manual process. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

Subject to our duty under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act to advise and assist you, I am disclosing to you a copy of the project specification and the most recent draft versions of Work Package 1 and 2 we have received to date for ‘*SPEP 2021-22/03 - The impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) sites on soil and agricultural land quality*’. I believe this is likely to contain information you intended to request when requesting reports.

This project has been recently commissioned and consists of 4 work packages. We aim to complete the project by the end of December 2021. The final report of all work packages will be published on the [Soil Policy Evidence Programme](#) web page once completed and translated – this is likely to be early 2022.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Also further to our duty to assist and advise, 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. We have published a practical guide on making requests for information, available on our website here:

<https://gov.wales/requesting-information-welsh-government-html>

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