



Our ref: ATISN 15748
Date: 30 December 2021

Dear _____,

ATISN 15748

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 December 2021. You asked for the following information:

- any correspondence between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru regarding the coalition agreement (redacting any personal information where appropriate);
- any correspondence between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru regarding the cooperation agreement? (redacting any personal information); and,
- the number of letters sent between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru regarding the Cooperation Agreement.

One request refers to correspondence on the coalition agreement. The Welsh Government is not in coalition and such an agreement does not exist.

With regard to the Co-operation Agreement, I believe this request to fall under the Section 12 exemption and have set out my reasoning below.

I have reached the conclusion that it will 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 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.

You have requested correspondence which will have involved various individuals in the Welsh Government, and all of their records would need to be searched, where available. An electronic search to identify correspondence between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru on one individual's device returned in excess of 800 emails.

Whilst it may be immediately obvious that some of these emails do not fall within scope, nonetheless, an exercise to locate, extract and retrieve the document to confirm the position would be required. Taking a moderate 3 minutes to investigate each piece of correspondence to see if it relates to the Agreement and to then extract it would take in excess of 24 hours for this set of

correspondence alone. Additional time to undertake other searches for the other individuals involved in the discussions and who may hold relevant correspondence would also need to be taken into consideration. Since 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 that part of your request.

You have also asked for the number of letters sent between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru regarding the Co-operation Agreement. We are not aware of any formal letters sent between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru regarding the Co-operation Agreement.

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