

15 September 2022

Dear

ATISN 16630 – Food waste

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 August 2022. You asked the following:

How much subsidised food is thrown away and wasted at the Senedd and at other Welsh Government buildings, as this food is paid for ultimately by taxpayers, many of whom are in financial difficulties.

I understand at some functions, people will turn up for the freebies as this is seen as a perk. Is this fair on the taxpayer?

What are you going to do about the food waste? And what are you going to do about people turning up for freebies?

You will receive a separate response from the Senedd Commission in relation to information requested about the Senedd.

I have interpreted your request relating to ‘subsidised food’ as being applicable to the food waste generated by our on-site catering services e.g. unsold food items from café outlets and food waste from hospitality services.

We do not hold food waste data relating specifically to our catering services. The food waste data we maintain is for all food waste – including left-over food brought in from home by staff for consumption in the office.

Catering operations have been downsized as a consequence of the pandemic from eight catered locations to four. We have introduced a café-style ‘grab & go’ service (including a made to order offer) to align with new agile working arrangements.

There has been a significant reduction in hospitality requirements since March 2020 with the introduction of virtual meetings. Face to face meetings requiring hospitality are held by exception. Where hospitality is provided, for hygiene reasons it is served as individual portions per attendee.

The new service arrangements are more sustainable and aimed at minimising food waste.

Prior to the pandemic our catering contractor was donating food waste that was safe for consumption to worthy causes. We are now working towards reintroducing this arrangement.

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