



27 October 2022

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

### ATISN 16708 – Payments to the RSPB

#### Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 October 2022. You asked for:

- 1) A list of all the grants, gifts and any other payments made to the RSPB by, or on behalf of, the Welsh Government since January 2020
- 2) In each case the purpose of the grant, gift or payment.
- 3) In each case what outcomes were required as a result of the grant, gift or payment.

#### Our response

The information you requested is as follows:

Purpose	Type	Amount (£)	Outcomes
Rural Community Development Fund	Grant	81,776.00	See note a
Rural Community Development Fund	Grant	45,959.08	See note a
Green Infrastructure Lake Vyrnwy project in 2020	Grant	6,000.00	See note b
Green Infrastructure Lake Vyrnwy project in 2020	Grant	6,000.00	See note b
Tourism Investment Support Scheme (TISS) - Match Funding, TMF Scheme	Grant	70,143.93	See note c
Tourism Investment Support Scheme (TISS)	Grant	143,279.89	See note c
Tourism Investment Support Scheme (TISS)	Grant	9,727.11	See note c
Tourism Amenity Support Scheme (TAIS)	Grant	124,646.10	See note d
Sustainable Management Scheme	Grant	138,636.62	See note e
Sustainable Management Scheme	Grant	97,880.30	See note e
Sustainable Management Scheme	Grant	81,526.06	See note e

#### Notes

- a) Outcomes are published in the grant documentation on our website here: [Rural Community Development Fund: guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

b) Both payments are listed as relating to staff costs.

The original briefing stated “The project aims were to bring together likeminded stakeholders and the community in Lake Vyrnwy, to enable management that moves the protected area closer to a favourable Conservation Status on 4,500ha of Special Area of Conservation/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SAC/SSSI) moorland, to improve visitors’ experience at Lake Vyrnwy and to realise the potential of Lake Vyrnwy as a major high quality mid Wales visitor destination. Together this will reinvigorate local pride and make the site sustainable to the benefit of the local economy and the future of the natural and built heritage.”

To achieve this the project had 5 work streams:

1. **Natural Heritage Conservation**
2. **Destination Management**
3. **Develop a Visitor Centre**
4. **Improvement of Visitor Hub**
5. **Community Engagement**

Welsh Government awarded RSPB a capital allocation of £750k under the Green Infrastructure (GI) Capital Grant on 8 March 2019. The project was initially successful in its first stage bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) - the development phase. The delivery phase of the application was subject to final agreement by submission of a full application to NLHF. The original Welsh Government GI grant offer stated that the funding would available to be utilised until 31 March 2021, in line with the original timetable set by RSPB. The award letter also clearly stated that the grant offer was dependent/conditional on RSPB being given second stage approval by NLHF.

In December 2020, RSPB notified Welsh Government that their second stage final application had been unsuccessful. Officials met with RSPB on 17 December 2020 to discuss the situation and the options available. RSPB notified officials that the main feedback from NLHF was that the capital element of the bid and the Visitor Centre included as part of the proposal, required further development. RSPB suggested they were looking at a number of options to move forward but were unlikely to re-submit their application for re-assessment.

RSPB subsequently advised Welsh Government they would not resubmit their proposal to NLHF and therefore would not be able to secure this funding within the following 6 to 9 months.

Based on this, Welsh Government withdrew the conditional offer of grant, the remaining £726k, made to RSPB for their NLHF Lake Vyrnwy project.

c) A Tourism Investment Support Scheme (TISS) grant was used to upgrade the visitor facilities and Café at South Stack Cliffs Nature Reserve. £153,006 (TISS) was released in 2021. The project safeguarded 12 jobs. The project

was also supported by Tourism Match Funding of £70,143.93 through the TMF Scheme.

- d) A Tourism Amenity Support Scheme (TAIS) grant was approved to support improved visitor toilet facilities at South Stack. £124,646 (TAIS) was released in 2021.
- e) Outcomes are published in the grant documentation on our website here: [Sustainable Management Scheme: guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

### **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