

21 October 2022

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 16689

Thank you for your request for information dated 26 September regarding the proposed sale of land on East Merthyr 2 reclamation site, Goat Mill Road, Merthyr Tydfil.

Information requested

1. Was the Welsh Government (an interested party as the likely main beneficiary of sale proceeds) involved in negotiations and/or decisions about proposals for the sale of the East Merthyr 2 site (the whole or parts of it) at Goat Mill Road, Merthyr Tydfil for the purposes of:
 - Plastics waste management
 - Other industry or employment use
 - Housing
 - Other public or social use – for example, a school in any of the years 2017 to 2022?

2. What discussions, conversations, correspondence did Welsh Government (an interested party as the likely main beneficiary of sale proceeds) have with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (as owners) and/or its agents in in proposals for the sale of the East Merthyr 2 site (the whole or parts of it) at Goat Mill Road, Merthyr Tydfil for the purposes of:
 - Plastics waste management
 - Other industry or employment use
 - Housing
 - Other public or social use – for example, a school in any of the years 2017 to 2022?

3. What offers of grants, financial assistance and support has Welsh Government, its partners or agents made to:
 - a. Jayplas
 - b. Other private sector waste plastics management firms or organisations
 - c. Merthyr Tydfil CBC
 - d. Cardiff Capital Region
 - e. Local authority refuse and recycling partnerships

in the years 2017 to 2022 in respect of waste plastics management schemes and projects at:

- the East Merthyr 2 site, Goat Mill Road, Merthyr Tydfil
- or
- other possible waste plastics facility sites in South East Wales?

Our response

1. During 2017 discussions were held with several interested parties relating to parts of the site resulting in agreed sales of part to Stephens & George (4.02 acres) in 2018 and M DeLacey & Sons (Holdings) Limited (1.66 acres) in 2018. Both transactions were approved by Welsh Government (WG) insofar as they related to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTC) land reclamation clawback obligations.

Heads of terms were agreed with Jayplas for the sale of the whole site dated 4th April 2019, subject to planning consent for development of a plastic recycling facility. Heads of terms were approved by MTC and WG. WG obtained independent advice on the proposed terms and confirmation of our consent to the sale terms insofar as they related to MTC's land reclamation obligations was provided to them on 11th April 2019.

2. Between 2017 and 2022, the appointed consultants provided periodic updates to WG on progress with the various transactions to enable us to monitor any timings of potential receipts of land reclamation clawback due. An area at the south of the Goatmill Rd site was marketed separately by Cooke & Arkwright on behalf of MTC for housing development but this land was subsequently included within the proposed sale to Jayplas whose development required the entirety of the site.
3.
 - a. £12m
 - b. WRAP supported several plastic projects via the 'Supply Chain' project – details are published here: <https://wrapcymru.org.uk/taking-action-wales/supply-chain-projects>
 - c. WRAP Cymru has provided support to MTC via its Collaborative Change Programme – mostly in the form of time from WRAP staff. In the last year this has included support for the marketing of materials collected for recycling, a performance and efficiency review and a review of operations. In 2021 MTC was a partner in a 13 week trial of plastic film recycling from a selection of households. Merthyr were paid for their additional costs via a grant.
 - d. None.
 - e. None.

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