

16 December 2022

Dear

## **ATISN 16885 – Qatar World Cup**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 November 2022. You asked:

1. Who from Welsh Government attended the Qatar World Cup
2. What was the cost of their journey, hotel accommodation and tickets which would be payable by the tax payer.

### **Our response**

The information you requested is as follows:

1. 8 officials and 2 Ministers travelled to Qatar for the World Cup.
2. The costs incurred were as follows:

Flights	£16,775
Accommodation	£27,920
Tickets	£1850

Some of the information you have requested regarding ministerial costs associated with overseas travel is exempt under **Section 21** and Section 22 of the Freedom of information Act 2000 – information accessible by other means and information intended for future publication.

All ministerial travel, including the associated costs, is published on an annual basis by financial year as required under the Ministerial Code and can be found here [Ministerial Code information publication: 5th assembly | GOV.WALES](#).

In addition, all ministerial meetings and engagements is published online every quarter in accordance with the ministerial code and can be found here [Ministerial meetings and engagements | GOV.WALES](#).

Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption and I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

### **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

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Section 22: Information intended for future publication.**

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

#### **Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure**

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

#### **Public interest arguments against disclosure**

This information is published as a requirement in the Ministerial code. This information will be published along with details of other Ministerial visits overseas according to the usual schedule. The information for the financial year 22/23 will be published after March next year. The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and it is a long standing requirement that details of Ministerial visits overseas, including the costs, are published in line with the Ministerial code.

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following links: [Ministerial Code information publication: 5th assembly | GOV.WALES](#) and <https://gov.wales/ministerial-code-information-publication-5th-assembly>.