

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 17098

I wrote to you on 16 February regarding your request for information.

Your request

You asked for:

All information regarding government funding for last 10 years for the following festivals and events: Royal Welsh Show, Hay Festival, Eisteddfod and Urdd International Eisteddfod.

Our Response

In our previous letter to you, we explained that your request would be very time consuming to deal with. We asked if you could provide a more specific request for information, for example by reducing the period of time the request covers, or requesting information on a certain type of funding for a specific purpose, e.g. grants only which support the core delivery of the event.

We have not received a refined request from you therefore our response is based on your original request. In order to provide you with the information that you have requested it would require us to carry out searches within at least six Welsh Government divisions across two Departments. Different divisions may have provided funding to these festivals and events over the last ten years for many different purposes e.g. educational programmes, public health awareness initiatives etc. The funding information is also registered on different systems depending whether they are grants, sponsorship or other.

Because you ask for all information for four different festivals, and for a ten year period, and because "all information" would capture, in addition to the funding itself, all information related to the funding, such as (but not limited to) requests and offers of grants, we estimate that we would need to search in excess of 25 different files in each of the 5 divisions that may hold information, and in each file we would need to review, on average (based on a sample exercise), 12 documents. The review of documents is a manual process, as the file contents must be read to determine if the information relates to funding of one of these festivals. In our sample exercise this took 3 minutes. We therefore estimate the scope of this exercise to exceed 75 hours.

Thus, from our preliminary assessment we estimate it will cost significantly more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it. Consequently, we have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

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: Freedomofinformation@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