

Dear

ATISN 17479 – Freedom of Information Request – Tree Planting in Wales.

Thank you for your request, which I received on 11th May 2023, about tree planting in Wales. In your email you asked for:

- **the planting of trees in Wales in the past five years**

The amount of woodland created by new planting in Wales for the years 2018 - 2022 was a total of 1,820 hectares. This is the breakdown:

Year	Hectares
2017-2018	200
2018-2019	670
2019-2020	80
2020-2021	290
2021-2022	580

Data for 2023 is not yet available.

The woodland statistics are published annually by Forest Research and can be found here: [Woodland Statistics - Forest Research](#)

- **The costs to Welsh Government of planting the trees**

The Welsh Government has schemes which support landowners with the costs associated with woodland creation.

The Glastir Woodland Creation paid grants to landowners wanting support to plant trees. Between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2022, the Welsh Government paid a total of **£7,072,914** for capital works. This grant funding is used for planting trees and includes other capital items such as fencing and gates. The Glastir Woodland Restoration scheme paid a total of **£2,286,791** for Capital Works in this time period which also included payments for replanting and other associated costs.

The Welsh Government has a number of schemes to improve the environment. Some of these include an element of tree planting and woodland management as part of a range of activities undertaken by applicants. It is not possible to provide data on how much was spent on the tree planting elements of these schemes.

- **The survival rates of trees**

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. It is a condition of our grants that the trees planted are protected and that trees that fail to thrive are replaced. Our woodland creation grants pay annual maintenance grants for a period of twelve years to help landowners care for the trees planted under the grant schemes.

- **The department that planted them**

The Welsh Government does not plant trees directly. Instead we grant fund landowners and land managers to create woodland which includes for example farmers, local authorities, environmental NGOs and charities. Woodland creation on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate is carried out by Natural Resources Wales on our behalf.

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.

Kind regards,