

11 July 2023

Dear

## **ATISN 18599 – Frequency of Contact with UK Government Civil Service**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 June 2023. You asked for:

*How frequently does the overseas offices meet/liaise with UK Gov civil servants throughout the Welsh Government's 21 offices across 11 countries, when initiating trade deals and international business deals.*

### **Response**

Our overseas offices do not meet the UK Government directly to discuss trade deals. All engagement between the Welsh Government and UK Government takes place through our central trade policy team. For further information on our engagement on each trade deal please read the Welsh Government perspectives published on our website:

<https://www.gov.wales/international-trade-policy>

Regarding international business deals, I have considered this term could mean both government level trade deals that facilitate business, as well as individual company level deals. If referring to government level trade deals, the response to the above-mentioned point on trade deals would apply. If referring to individual company level business deals, then those businesses would initiate and conclude them directly with their partners and customers. To support this, our Welsh Government overseas teams, many of which are co-located with UK Government officials, have ongoing discussions in market to support efforts to raise awareness of the investment opportunities which Wales has to offer, and to support Welsh businesses to export into overseas markets. Whilst we do not routinely record the number of meetings, the discussions are frequent and regular.

### **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 e-mail: [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  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely