

7 September 2023

Dear

ATISN 18802

Thank you for your request which was received on 4 August 2023, you asked for the information as shown at Annex 1

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

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

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

1. Who does WG bank with? (If there is more than one bank, please list banks currently used)?

NatWest, under the Government Banking Services (GBS) contract, and Barclays.

2. What services does each bank used provide (in general terms)?

NatWest: Online banking, full range of payment methods, including Bacs and Faster payments, Local paying-in and cash withdrawal facilities.

Barclays: Online banking and Faster payments. We retain a euro bank account with Barclays for the administration of European funds.

3. When did the contracts for the current banks used start?

NatWest October 2015 and Barclays April 2004.

4. What is the tendering process used for banks to provide services to WG?

GBS provides a shared banking service across central government and wider public sector customers. This is provided through a centralised procurement exercise led by GBS.

5. When will a new tendering round for bank services occur?

As above, Welsh Government's banking services are provided by GBS. More information can be obtained by contacting GBS on: Email: Helpdesk.gbs@hmrc.gov.uk or Phone 03000 588 880

6. In relation to the tendering process for the banks currently used, did WG specify any ethical and/or environmental conditions (for example, precluding provision of services by banks which actively financed fossil fuel development/extraction)?

The tendering process is undertaken by GBS.

7. Has WG been the subject of any campaign for it to change the bank(s) it uses on ethical, environmental or other grounds. If so, please provide details.

No.

8. Does WG periodically review the services that have been provided by the bank(s) it uses?

Reviews are carried out by GBS to monitor supplier performance against their contractual commitments.

If so, what have been the outcomes of any such review?

N/A

9. Is WG subject to any rules in relation to the provision/procurement of banking services (e.g., fiduciary rules).

The Welsh Government is responsible for ensuring that public money is properly utilised and accounted for.

If possible, could you also please answer these questions with respect to Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies and any other bodies funded by WG.

The GBS contract also provides banking services to many of the WGSB, and other bodies funded by WG. Further information can be obtained from GBS. We do not hold the information requested for those WGSB and other bodies who's banking services are not provided by GBS.