

6 November 2023

Dear

ATISN 19142

Thank you for your request which was received on 9 October 2023. I have set out at Annex 1 to this letter the questions you submitted and my response to each.

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. As Wales Government has progressed to be of major importance to Wales, and as our Energy Electric Grid is becoming so variable, does the Wales Government's main Senedd / Government building in Cardiff have installed emergency generators to enable business to continue in times of grid Power Cuts?
2. If they are installed, what is the energy source to drive them e.g. diesel or wind or solar?
3. If they are installed, what is their capacity, and could they share their power with other essential users e.g. nearby health clinic surgeries etc during grid power cuts?
4. The large regional hospital near my home has several large emergency diesel driven generators, will they be required, like diesel vehicles, by Wales Government carbon free policies, to change to storage battery driven generation, to enable the hospital to continue during any grid supply problems?

Welsh Government does not hold information on the Senedd building – any information for that organisation can be requested here [Freedom of Information \(senedd.wales\)](https://www.senedd.wales/freedom-of-information)

With regard to the Welsh Government building at Cathays Park, I have concluded the information for questions 1 – 3 is exempt under Section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), Safeguarding National Security.

Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure where it “is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security.” Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt if disclosure would be harmful e.g. if its release would undermine national security.

In order to satisfy the public interest test in relation to the section 24 exemption, it is necessary to conclude that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information are sufficient to outweigh the public interest arguments in favour of release.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

- The general presumption of openness that the FOIA aspires to; and
- The information may provide reassurance to the public about the ability to maintain Government business in the event of disruption to power grids.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

- Any disclosure under FOI is released to the public at large.
- Releasing detailed information about the Cathays Park Government building infrastructure and the impact of power disruption, could assist an adversary or hostile actor (which includes state actors, as well as individual terrorists or terrorist groups) to develop intelligence that may help them for planning potential criminal activity at some future date.
- Adversaries or hostile actors can be highly motivated and may go to great lengths to gather separate pieces of intelligence to attempt to expose vulnerabilities.

I have therefore concluded that the information should be withheld. On balance, the interests of safeguarding national security, outweigh the need for openness in terms of the specific information that you have requested.

With regard to question 4, at any of the main hospital sites resilience has to be the top priority to ensure that healthcare services can continue to be provided at all times. If a generator reaches end of life and needs to be replaced we would expect the Health Board to consider low emission alternatives including storage battery generation if this is an option.