

23 November 2023

Dear

ATISN 19182

Thank you for your request which was received on 18 October 2023. You asked for the following information:

- 1. Details of all meetings (in any capacity), emails, SMS, WhatsApp messages, Telegram messages, Signal messages and any other form of communication between Welsh Government Ministers and Deputy Ministers and Mr. Stephen Brooks (a.k.a Steve Brooks), since 1 January 2022. To include the date, time, location, attendees, agenda and purpose of each meeting.*
- 2. Details of all meetings (in any capacity), SMS, emails, WhatsApp messages, Telegram messages, Signal messages and any other form of communication between Welsh Government Special Advisers and Mr. Stephen Brooks (a.k.a Steve Brooks), since 1 January 2022. To include the date, time, location, attendees, agenda and purpose of each meeting.*

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if it calculates that dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. 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.

In order to locate and identify the information, a series of individual searches must be undertaken across a number of applications and devices individually. However, as we are searching for a named individual, with a reasonably common name, any returned results would need to be checked manually by reading each message.

However, in terms of meetings, details of ministers' meetings and attendance at engagements are published quarterly in arrears at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements>

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