

19 March 2024

Dear

## **ATISN 20305 – Cwmbran Boating Lake**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 04 March 2024. You asked for:

The total costs of the floating island at Cwmbran Boating Lake. You asked for the total funding which the Welsh Government has given to Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent Local Nature Partnership for this. You requested we supply any invoices and receipts we hold specific to the floating island.

### **Our response**

I am writing to inform you that the information you have requested is not fully held by the Welsh Government. The governance of this Local Places for Nature Scheme means that Welsh Government contracts WCVA to manage the Local Nature Partnership Scheme. Welsh Government provides a grant to each of the LNPs based on a plan that has been approved by an independent panel. These plans set out projects and operations to be undertaken across the LNP's area at a high level.

The work you refer to at Cwmbran Boating Lake is an element of this grant. The grant is paid to the LNP in arrears on the successful completion and proof of works, verified by WCVA through a bespoke grant claims process. Welsh Government pays WCVA a consolidated grant payment for all 25 LNPs in arrears on a quarterly basis. I can also confirm that the grant for this work has not yet been claimed by the LNP. For all these reasons, we do not hold the specific detailed information you have requested.

As this is an FoI request I can provide you with some additional detail not normally held directly by Welsh Government. Information held in an email correspondence I had been copied into between the LNP and WCVA confirms the total for renovation of the floating island as £14,462 excluding VAT. The costs includes:

- Site visits,
- Consultation and design
- Growing, supply and transport of materials, including plants, coir matting and new floating sections,
- Temporary protective fencing
- Equipment for installation
- Installation

An ecologist has also confirmed that the build is to specification. I can also reassure you that the wire is temporary to allow the plants to establish and will be removed to allow nesting birds to access it. I am aware that the LNP worked with the angling

club that leases the lake and as such is a good example of local engagement and cooperation.

If you require further information about this element of the LNP project. I believe that **Torfaen County Borough Council** will hold information on this project. You can ask them for the information at [veronika.brannovic@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:veronika.brannovic@torfaen.gov.uk) or I can transfer your request to them. Please inform me in writing if you would like me to transfer your request.

### **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 Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You 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.

Yours sincerely