

12 April 2024

Dear

ATISN 20281

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 27 February 2024. You asked for all the correspondence associated with this grant between Welsh Government and Anglesey County Council to include the grant application form and the letter / email offering the grant along with any conditions associated with the grant.

Our response

I apologise for the late response.

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed. Due to the vast amount and volume of information to be disclosed you will receive several emails and attachments.

I have decided that some of the information in the enclosed list is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

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

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.

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 A

Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act provides a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information:

The personal information contained in the information you requested has been redacted in line with Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

Engagement of S40(2) – Personal Data

The Welsh Government believes the personal data contained in the information being released with this request should be exempt from disclosure

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b), provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

‘Personal data’ is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (‘the DPA 2018’) and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.

We have concluded that third party personal data is included in the information you requested. This includes names, e-mail addresses and contact details. Disclosing of any information would be likely to lead to their subsequent identification.

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

1. The Legitimate interest test: Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
2. The Necessity test: Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
3. The Balancing test: Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate Interest Test

The Welsh Government does not believe there is a legitimate interest in being able to identify the parties involved in any communication as the details associated with the grant are all understandable without the personal information. As this relates to

personal data, the Welsh Government cannot identify any other legitimate interest in you or the public receiving the personal data captured by your request.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

The Welsh Government is of the view that it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by your request. Doing so would jeopardise the anonymity of people involved, but there is no legal or over-riding necessary public interest that would make the disclosure necessary.

3. The Balancing Test

As it has been concluded that there is no necessity to disclose the personal data of another individual, the fundamental rights and freedoms of the affected third party prevail in this instance and releasing the information cannot be justified under Article 6(1)(f). Disclosure of the third party information would constitute unfair processing of the personal data, and would breach an agreement in the settlement to keep the information confidential.