

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 20898

I wrote to you on 5 September regarding your request for information.

Your request

- 1. When funding is received by Business Wales from the Welsh Government what percentage of the fund is spent directly on your costs, for example Wages, Working From Home cost savings.***

We will deem the above as a request for funding provided to Business in Focus to deliver the Business Wales Business Development and Growth contract on behalf of the Welsh Government.

- 2. How much have you actually provided by way of grant funding to Welsh SMEs***

We will deem the above as a request for grant funding delivered by Business in Focus on behalf of the Welsh Government.

- 3. How many staff does business Wales employ to include contracted and directly employed***
- 4. The CEO's final salary***
- 5. What percentage of income is directly awarded to Welsh Business compared to the above costs.***

Our Response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds most of the information you have requested.

For question one, we do not hold this information.

For question two, for the 2024/25 financial year, £4,037,000 is the total budget provided to Business in Focus to deliver the Business Wales Business Development and Growth contract on behalf of the Welsh Government. This equates to circa 60% on staff costs. We don't hold any data on working from home cost savings.

For question three, the Business Wales service is delivered via five key strands which includes an internal Digital and Helpline team and a team to manage the whole service, one grant to deliver the Social Business Wales service and three direct contracts this includes the Business Development and Growth service (BDG), Entrepreneurship & Start-up service (ESU) and the Accelerated Growth Programme (AGP).

In total, the Business Wales service employs 160.2 full time equivalent (FTE) contracted staff and 33 part-time (PT) contracted staff. The Welsh Government directly employs 36 FTE internal staff to deliver the Business Wales service.

For question four, I can confirm that Business Wales does not have a CEO.

For your final question, Business in Focus on behalf of the Welsh Government delivered the Barriers to Start Grant at a cost of £3,539,554.70 (this fund is now closed). Business in Focus on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently delivering the Young Persons Start Up Grant and at a cost to date of £986,249.47.

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: Freedomofinformation@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.

Personal Information

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and email address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely