

3 March 2025

Dear

ATISN 24467 – Request for Information

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 28 February 2025. I apologise for the lateness of our reply. You asked for:

1. A schedule of all meetings held in person and online between Welsh Government officials, Welsh Government Ministers (or their representatives) held with:

- a) the Chair of Hybu Cig Cymru-Meat Promotion Wales (HCC);
- b) Directors of HCC;
- c) HCC Interim CEO

From 01/08/2022 to the present day. To include dates of meetings, purpose of the meetings and names of attendees.

2. All correspondence between Welsh Government officials, Welsh Government Ministers (or their representatives) and the following:

- a) Chair of Hybu Cig Cymru- Meat Promotion Wales (HCC);
- b) Directors of HCC;
- c) HCC Interim CEO

From 01/08/2022 to the present day.

Our response

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. 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.

The information you require captures information regarding meetings, and records of all correspondence, over a three-year period, for these recipients. It would not be possible to eliminate any correspondence with any Welsh Government division of these individuals without contacting all divisions in Welsh Government to ask whether they have information in scope in any policy area. Such an exercise would certainly exceed the appropriate limit. However, on a more restricted interpretation, that this relates just to the policy areas that interact with Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC), it remains the case that there would be a large volume of information to review and assess to see if information were caught, without knowing the matters or subject areas in which you are interested.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require, at least, a review of all correspondence in all files on which there may have been interaction with these individuals on matters related to HCC. We have identified 80

files that may hold such information. In an exercise, we have reviewed one of these files, and discovered that it contains 230 emails that must be reviewed to appear if they are in scope. Not all of these are in scope, but each must be reviewed to decide whether it is captured or not. Using keyword searches, in an exercise, we found that we were able to review and extract this information at the rate of one email every 30 seconds. Thus the time it would take to review all information that is believed to be in scope of this request is $230 \times 80 \times 30$ seconds which is 552,000 seconds, or 153 hours. This is clearly well in excess of the appropriate limit. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new 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

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