



23 July 2025

Dear ,

### **ATISN 24863 – Mbale Tree Planting Project**

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 25 June. In your email you asked for the following:

1. *A breakdown of the total expenditure by the Welsh Government related to the Mbale Trees project from its inception to present, including any grants provided to third parties (e.g. Size of Wales).*
2. *Copies of invoices, contracts, or work orders associated with the delivery of the project, including but not limited to payments made for:*
  - *Tree planting operations*
  - *Administrative or staffing costs*
  - *Monitoring and evaluation services*
  - *Promotional or educational activities*
3. *Any audit reports or evaluations conducted by or on behalf of the Welsh Government concerning the project's effectiveness and value for money for the public pound.*

The responses are as follows:

1. Since July 2015, the Welsh Government has provided £4,057,687 to the Size of Wales programme for the Mbale tree planting project. (Note – 10 years of records are available due to information retention policies.)
2. No information held. The requested information is administered and held by a third party, Size of Wales.
3. Three reports are attached at Annex A, Annex B, and Annex C alongside reasons as to why some of the information has been redacted. Please note that the Mbale Tree Project is monitored and evaluated in a number of different ways:
  - Welsh Government (WG) staff have weekly informal meetings with Size of Wales (SoW) to monitor progress and discuss current issues.
  - The Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise (METGE) holds more formal monthly and quarterly meetings to discuss progress and current issues. SoW and WG attend.



- SoW employs a Fiduciary Management Agent to handle all transactions for and between SoW and METGE and SoW conducts quarterly spot checks of transactions.
- SoW attends METGE Board meetings. WG and SoW staff have visited the project regularly.
- British High Commission staff have visited the project several times.

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](mailto: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](http://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

## **Annex A – METGE Final Report (January 2024)**

### Redacted information:

- Cover Page – Author's Name. Redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 13 – Image redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 16 – Facial images redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 18 – Facial images redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 21 - Image redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 23 – Name of Deputy Headteacher in local school redacted twice under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 29 – Image redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 30 – Name of fiduciary agent redacted under *S43 – Commercial Interests*.
- Page 32 - Image redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 35 - Image redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.

## **Annex B – The Mbale Tree Programme – Satellite Imagery**

Joint report by the Office for National Statistics, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Welsh Government

### Redacted information:

None

## **Annex C – Retrospective Impact Evaluation (September 2020)**

### Redacted information:

- Cover page – Authors names (x 2). Redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 10 – Names of two interviewees. Redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Page 21 – Name and image of farmer. Redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.
- Pages 44 to 46 – Name of farmer (appears 31 times). Redacted under *S40 – Personal Information*.