

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 24827 – Representations to UK Government over post-EU funding decision-making powers

Thank you for your email which was received on 16 July 2025. Your complaint was referred to me for an internal review.

Your original request was for information relating to any Welsh Government representations since July 2024 to the UK Government requesting:

- Powers over the management, oversight, or delivery of replacement EU funding (including, but not limited to, the Shared Prosperity Fund, Levelling Up Fund, or Local Growth Fund)?
- That such funds be devolved or managed in partnership with the Welsh Government?

You requested copies of any correspondence, briefings, meeting notes, or internal assessments relating to such representations, including communications with:

- The Wales Office,
- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC),
- HM Treasury,
- Or any other UK Government department.

Additionally, you asked whether the Welsh Government has ever formally requested full control or devolution of powers over successor funding to EU regional aid (e.g. as part of intergovernmental negotiations, JMC meetings, or through written correspondence).

The information you requested was considered exempt from disclosure under section 28 of the Freedom of Information Act and was therefore withheld. Some information that was already in the public domain was included in the response for your convenience. The rationale for the application of the exemptions was included in Annex 1.

You asked for an internal review, and in particular confirmation, of:

- Whether a line-by-line assessment of each document was conducted;
- Whether partial disclosure or redaction was considered;
- Whether the Welsh Government's duties under Section 16 (to advise and assist) were fulfilled.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information which is available by post on request or via the internet at <https://gov.wales/requesting-information-welsh-government.html>

I have considered in detail the information that is held by Welsh Government, including whether any could be subject to partial disclosure and/or redaction. I have concluded that exemptions applied to the original request were correctly applied.

I have also considered the decision in the context of the public interest test and believe the original decision was correct; I have concluded it is a fair assessment in order to protect relations between the different governments in the UK. I recognise there is legitimate public

interest in the ongoing discussions, but I agree with the previous assessment that the release of the information would prejudice relations with the UK Government and impact on future discussions.

I have also considered Section 16, as requested, which provides that “public authorities should provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it”. It is my view that Welsh Government has adhered to the Code of Practice in providing advice and assistance.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response 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.

Yours sincerely,