

29 September 2025

Dear

**ATISN 25140 - Request for Information.**

I refer to the email which I received on 9 September 2025 requesting the following information regarding the Farming Connect Programme and the Farm Business Grant (FBG) scheme for the most recent financial year available (or the most recent completed year):

**Farming Connect Programme:**

1. Total funding allocated.

**The total expenditure for the Welsh Government's Knowledge Transfer Programme, known as Farming Connect, during the 2024–2025 financial year was £11,623,225.**

2. Amount used for programme administration, staffing, and delivery partner overheads.
3. Amount spent directly on subsidised services delivered to farmers (e.g., training, mentoring, advisory support).

**I have decided that items 2 and 3 above are exempt from disclosure under Section 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations and the information is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.**

**Farm Business Grant (FBG)**

1. Total funding allocated.

**The total value of contracts accepted was £1.25m.**

2. Amount paid directly to farmers in grants.

**£854,000**

3. Amount retained by Welsh Government / Rural Payments Wales for administration and processing.

**There are no reductions for administration and processing.**

**The above figures are for year 2021, which is the most recent complete year.**

**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](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.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

## **EIR - Engagement of Section 12(5)(e)**

Regulation 12(5)(e) states a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

Officials have carefully considered all of the information captured by this request and consider that some of the information in question should be exempt under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – Commercial or industrial information.

This is a public interest tested exemption, which means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of release**

Welsh Government recognises the inherent public interest in openness and transparency that release of this information would engender.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of withholding**

It is important for companies to share commercially sensitive information with us in the confidence that that information will not then enter the public domain and damage their wider commercial interests and opportunities. Where disclosure of the requested information would undermine confidence of business processes, allowing competitors commercial advantage, disclosure of such information would not be in the public interest.

### **Conclusion**

The public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed in favour of withholding the information for the reasons above. I have therefore withheld information.