

23 October 2025

Dear

ATISN 26224 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request, which I received on 7 October 2025.

You have asked for the following information:

1. the number and notes of meetings the Welsh Government has held with members of the Cut the Chase Coalition between 1 March 2024 and 18 February 2025.
2. copies of all correspondence from members of the Cut the Chase Coalition received by the Deputy First Minister and the Welsh Government's Animal Welfare Branch between 1st October 2023 and 18th February 2025.
3. the dates, attendees and notes of any meetings the Welsh Government has held with Jane Dodds MS.

To confirm, the member organisations of the Cut the Chase Coalition are Hope Rescue, RSPCA, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust and Greyhound Rescue Wales.

Our response

It has been assessed 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 Welsh Government receives a large volume of correspondence, and I have conducted preliminary searches to establish where records captured by your request may be held in our files. In order to provide you with the information that you have requested, my preliminary searches with appropriate keywords have established that there are approximately 3,600 electronic records that may include information for part two of your request alone for these timescales.

However, it is not possible to establish whether the information in these electronic records is in scope of your requests without reviewing each of these files individually. This is a manual process as the records must be extracted and read to see if they are in scope.

In an exercise, we established that if files are reviewed at pace, we could review between 30 and 50 records an hour. On the basis of 50 records per hour, it would take approximately 72 hours to review all files to establish what information would be in scope.

As this exceeds the specified limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, as set out above, it is not possible to answer your requests.

You may wish to refine your requests by narrowing their scope – for example, by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. 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
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