



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 25036

4 September 2025

Dear ,

### Request for Information - ATISN 25036

Thank you for your request for information which I received from Transport for Wales on 6 August.

### Your request

You have asked for the following information:

#### 1. Correspondence Regarding Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd

Please provide details of any correspondence, emails, meeting notes, or records of communication between the **Climate Change Office, Transport Office**, or relevant staff and any individuals or representatives associated with **Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd**, dated **from 30 January 2025 to the present**.

I am particularly interested in any materials that:

1. Discuss or reference **requests or enquiries for public funding** to support the Cardiff Parkway station and/or associated infrastructure,
2. Include ministerial meetings or correspondence involving senior officials or political advisers,
3. Reflect internal discussions or external representations regarding financial support, public/private partnership models, or strategic alignment with Welsh Government transport priorities,
4. Contain **any projected or confirmed timelines for the start of construction**, as well as **information on the full expected delivery timeline** for the station and associated project components.



Llywodraeth Cymru /  
Welsh Government  
Parc Cathays / Cathays  
Park  
CF10 3NQ

FOI.ETCC@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## 2. Burns Delivery Unit – Delivery Timeline and Planning

Please provide any correspondence, documents, meeting minutes or briefings held by or submitted to the **Burns Delivery Unit**, the **Climate Change Office**, or officials within the Welsh Government that relate to the **timeline and plans for delivering newly funded rail stations** in Wales.

Specifically, I would like to receive:

1. Any confirmed or provisional construction start dates,
2. Delivery or project phasing timelines,
3. Project plans or milestones discussed internally or with stakeholders,
4. Relevant project pipeline planning documents.

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### Our Response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some of the information you have requested. However, the proposals under Cardiff Parkway Development Limited and the Burns Delivery Unit are in development and, therefore, we are not in a position to disclose completed or accurate information. The majority of the information is being withheld under Reg12(4)(d) - material in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data. Full reasoning for applying this exception is appended at Annex A at the bottom of this letter.

I have however, provided the following information:

### Correspondence Regarding Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd

1. There have been no requests or enquiries for public funding to support the Cardiff Parkway station and/or associated infrastructure between Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd and the Climate Change Office, Transport Office, or relevant staff.
2. There have been no ministerial meetings. Other than satisfying the obligations of the joint venture agreement there have been no meetings or correspondence involving senior officials or political advisers between Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd and the Climate Change Office, Transport Office, or relevant staff.
3. Other than satisfying the obligations of the joint venture agreement there have been no internal discussions or external representations regarding financial support, public/private partnership models, or strategic alignment with the Welsh Government transport priorities between Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd and the Climate Change Office, Transport Office, or relevant staff.
4. The Welsh Government is unable to comment at this time on any projected or confirmed timelines for the start of construction, as well as information on the full expected delivery timeline for the station and associated project

components other than those already in the public domain. Full reasoning for withholding this information under Regulation 12(4)(d) - material in the course of completion, and Regulation 12(5)(e) – confidentiality of commercial or industrial information, is appended at Annex A.

### **Burns Delivery Unit – Delivery Timeline and Planning**

In relation to your request for information on the Burns Delivery Unit, the information is being withheld under Reg12(4)(d) - material in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data. Full reasoning for applying this exception is appended at Annex A at the bottom of this letter.

Further information is already available in the public domain regarding the programming of the proposed stations. Please use links below:

[South East Wales Transport Commission | GOV.WALES](#)

[The Burns Delivery Unit | TfW](#)

### **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: [Freedomofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedomofinformation@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.

## Personal Information

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and email address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Email: [DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely

## **Annex A**

### **Reg12(4)(d) - material in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data**

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of Reg12(4)(d), material in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data of the EIRs and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

‘Environmental information’ is defined in the Regulations as (inter alia) information on measures (including administrative measures), such as policies, legislation, plans, programmes, environmental agreements, and activities affecting or likely to affect the state of the elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites, and also factors such as substances, energy, noise, radiation or waste likely to affect the state of the elements of the environment above.

In the recent Court of Appeal decision in *The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy v The Information Commissioner and Alex Henney*, it was held that the statutory definition of ‘environmental information’ does not mean that the information itself must be intrinsically environmental. They confirmed it is well established that the term “environmental information” in the Directive is to be given a broad meaning and that the intention of the Community’s legislature was to avoid giving that concept a definition which could have had the effect of excluding from the scope of that directive any of the activities engaged in by the public authorities.

As the Cardiff Parkway Development and the Burns Delivery Unit are plans likely to affect the environment, and as the information requested relates to the potential implementation of such a measure, then it falls within the definition set out in the Regulations.

The information requested is being withheld under Reg12(4)(d). This states:

12.—(4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that—

(d) the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data

Guidance from the Information Commissioner has confirmed that “Material which is still in the course of completion can include information created as part of the process of formulating and developing policy, where the process is not complete; draft documents are unfinished even if the final version has been produced; data that is being used or relied on at the time of the request is not incomplete, even if it may be modified later”. I can confirm that this is the case with the information you have requested on the Cardiff Parkway Development and the Burns Delivery Unit.

The station phasing information is still in the course of completion and therefore any information we hold is incomplete.

Regulation 12(4)(d) is a qualified (public interest tested) exception. Even if the exception is engaged, public authorities must go on to apply the public interest test set out in regulation 12(1)(b). A public authority can only withhold the information if the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Because of this, consideration has been given to the effects of disclosure to the world at large rather than any personal interest you may have in being provided with the information.

## **Public Interest Test**

The Welsh Government acknowledges the presumption in favour of disclosure under Regulation 12(2) and we acknowledge there is a public interest in openness and transparency within Government, particularly in terms of ensuring transparent and accountable government by disclosing how the Welsh Government utilises its resources, spends public money and that both are invested wisely on behalf of the people of Wales. It is recognised that there is sufficient public interest in the schemes and the associated delivery timescales, largely due to the proposed benefits that they will deliver.

However, the phasing of schemes under the Burns Delivery Unit has not been confirmed and the release of incomplete information may jeopardise ongoing discussions and undermine relations with the UK Government. This could adversely impact the progress of the schemes, which is not considered to be in the best interest of the public.

We have provided the links to the information that is already available in the public domain regarding the programming of the proposed stations. The Welsh Government has committed to publishing all of the information on its website, once it is complete. At that time, it will be published in a co-ordinated manner, with supporting contextual narrative, to all people at the same time. RAn accelerated release of incomplete material will result in inaccurate and incomplete information being disclosed prematurely, thus misleading the public.

I do not think it is in the public interest to release incomplete data prematurely. Rather, I believe the public interest would be best served if the information were released to all people at the same time.

To conclude, the Welsh Government believes the balance of public interest to withhold the information outweighs the public interest to release it for the reasons outlined above. The information has therefore been withheld under Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs.

## **Regulation 12(5)(e) – confidentiality of commercial or industrial information**

This exception states:

**12.—(5)** For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect—

(e) the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

In order to refuse information under this Regulation, guidance<sup>1</sup> from the Information Commissioner states that public authorities will need to establish that:

- the information is not on emissions;
- the information is commercial or industrial in nature;
- it is confidential under either the common law of confidence, contract, or a statutory bar;
- the confidentiality is protecting a legitimate economic interest;
- the confidentiality will be adversely affected by disclosure; and
- the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The withheld information relates to Cardiff Parkway station, specifically any projected or confirmed timelines for the start of construction, as well as information on the full expected delivery timeline. The information is both commercial and confidential in nature and is not regarding emissions.

Having consulted with the affected third party, I believe the withheld information, if released into the public domain, would prejudice the economic interests of Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd. The withheld information is incomplete, hence why we have also withheld the information under Reg12(4)(d) - material in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data, as explained above.

The company has a legitimate commercial interest in ensuring that its proposed project proceeds without hindrance or interference on such commercially sensitive matters, particularly given the sums already invested by both private investors and the Welsh Government. To release the information at this time would be likely to harm the company's efforts in this regard. Disclosure would also be likely to mean the company experiences a limitation in its ability to maintain competitive tension with its investors if they are aware of the Welsh Government's commercial considerations, which would be likely to reduce the company's ability to secure value for money from its additional investments.

### **Public interest test**

Given the fundamental significance of this project, as Cardiff Parkway station, the Welsh Government acknowledges there is significant public interest in the proposed project with strong feelings both for and against it. The Welsh Government also acknowledges there is public interest in openness and transparency within Government, particularly in terms of how the Welsh Government spends public money and that the money is invested wisely. With the funding information caught by this particular request, it is recognised there is benefit in the public understanding the considerations being undertaken by Government in providing additional funding,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624/eir\\_confidentiality\\_of\\_commercial\\_or\\_industrial\\_information.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624/eir_confidentiality_of_commercial_or_industrial_information.pdf)

in addition to the funding it has already invested, which would allow scrutiny of the project as a whole.

Disclosing the information whilst discussions are ongoing would be likely to cause prejudice to Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd's commercial interests. There is a significant public interest in ensuring that the proposed project is able to continue unimpeded given the sums of Welsh Government public money involved. Both Cardiff Parkway Development Ltd and the Welsh Government have committed to publish as much documentation as it is able to at the appropriate time. It is believed, therefore, that the public interest is satisfied by the amount of information already in the public domain and what is intended for future publication.