



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 25059

22 August 2025

Dear ,

Request for information - ATISN 25059

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 August 2025. You asked for:

Reports, Dataset or studies the Welsh Government has commissioned related to the thermal properties of the groundwater around Taff's Well from 2000 until present.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed. Please note that all personal information has been withheld under Regulation 13 of the EIRs. Full reasoning for applying this exception is appended at Annex A.

We would like to draw attention to the following information that is publicly available:

Welsh Government Mine water heat maps on data map Wales [Mine water heat | GOV.WALES](#) . This work was commissioned as part of the Heat Strategy for Wales [Heat strategy for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

The Taff's Well heat recovery Listed Building Consent application is a matter of public record, published on RCT's planning portal here:

[20/1372/LBC | Amendment to the project covered under planning permission - 20/0631/08 Renewable energy scheme using a heat recovery system to provide heating to Ffynnon Taf Primary School and Park Pavilion. | Taffs Well Spring Heat Network Cardiff CF15 7PF](#)

British Geological Survey portal – the BGS have recently launched a portal mapping geothermal potential across the UK.

[New platform highlights geothermal potential across the UK - British Geological Survey](#)

This work was further supported by a report commissioned by UK Government
[UK geothermal energy review and cost estimations - GOV.UK](#)

Welsh Government supported local authorities to produce Local Area Energy plans (LAEPs) - **The plan for RCT can be accessed from this page** [Our Climate Plans | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)

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

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

Annex A

Regulation 13 - Personal Data

Regulation 13 of the EIRs sets out an exception from the right to know if the information requested is personal information protected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). Personal data is defined in the GDPR as:

“any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person”

We have concluded that, in this instance, the information in relation to names of Welsh Government officials, names of third-party officials; and their email addresses, amounts to personal data. Under Regulation 13 of the EIRs, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

“processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject”

Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (Personal information (section 40 and regulation 13) v 1.3) states (at p11):

- The starting point is to consider whether it would be fair to the data subject to disclose their personal data. The key considerations in assessing this are set out in the section on Fairness below.
- If disclosure would not be fair, then the information is exempt from disclosure.

This approach was endorsed by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Deborah Clark v the Information Commissioner and East Hertfordshire District Council* where it was held:

“The first data protection principle entails a consideration of whether it would be fair to disclose the personal data in all the circumstances. The Commissioner determined that it would not be fair to disclose the requested information and thus the first data protection principle would be breached. There was no need in the present case therefore to consider whether any other Schedule 2 condition or conditions could be met because even if such conditions could be established, it would still not be possible to disclose the personal data without breaching the DPA” (paragraph 63).

In this instance, the personal data included in the attached planning document has been redacted.

The personal information contained in the planning document amounts to the personal data of Welsh Government officials, third party officials, including their

names and email addresses. These workers do not have openly public facing roles and would not expect their names or contact details to be released in this context. We believe that they would have no expectation that this information would be made public. Thus, we believe release of this information would be unfair and so breach the first data protection principle.

For that reason, the information is being withheld under Regulation 13 of the EIRs. This is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.