

Monday 23 February 2026

Dear ,

## **ATISN 26665, Freedom of Information request - Research Studies**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on Wednesday 4 February 2026. You asked for:

A copy or link to any reports, outputs or deliverables produced as part of a research studies funding award to Miller Research UK Ltd in relation to the specific payment made on 17 October 2025.

### **Our response**

I have decided that information described is exempt from disclosure under section 22A of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reason for applying this exemption is set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

### **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,

## **Annex A**

### **Application of exemptions/exceptions**

The Freedom of information Act provides a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information under Section 22A of the Freedom of Information Act:

A copy or link to any reports, outputs or deliverables produced as part of a research studies funding award to Miller Research UK Ltd in relation to the specific payment made on 17 October 2025.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 22A of the **Freedom of Information Act** and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

The funding awarded to Miller Research UK Ltd linked to the specific payment of 17 October 2025 is for the evaluation of the Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES). Under Section 22A of the Freedom of Information Act the Welsh Government believes that the WGES evaluation report and output should be exempt from disclosure at this current time as it is intended for future publication.

Disclosure of the current draft evaluation report on the Welsh Government Energy Service could be likely to cause harm because the report forms part of an ongoing research process and remains incomplete. Releasing draft material at this stage carries a significant risk of putting misleading or inaccurate information into the public domain, as provisional findings may change following quality assurance.

Premature disclosure may also damage public confidence in the Welsh Government's reporting processes if early findings are later amended. For these reasons, releasing the information now would be likely to result in harm to the quality and reliability of information available to the public.

We will be publishing the full WGES evaluation report on the public facing Welsh Government website once it is complete.

## **Public Interest Test**

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

Disclosing the evaluation report linked to the payment made to Miller Research on 17 October 2026 at this time would promote transparency and accountability in relation to the Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES). Transparency is a core principle of the Freedom of Information Act, and there is always a general public interest in enabling the public to see how public funds are used and how public programmes perform. Disclosure could also support informed debate about the effectiveness and value of the WGES, helping the public understand the impacts and outcomes of this programme.

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

The evaluation report is currently in draft form and forms part of an ongoing research and evaluation process being undertaken by Miller Research Ltd. Releasing the incomplete report at this stage would likely result in misleading or inaccurate information entering the public domain, as provisional findings may be revised or corrected during the final stages of analysis and quality assurance.

The Welsh Government will publish the finalised evaluation report once complete in the coming months. This ensures the public will still have full access to the accurate, complete, and quality assured evaluation in due course, maintaining transparency and accountability once the research is final.

### **Balance of public interest test**

While there may be a legitimate public interest in transparency about the performance and impact of the Welsh Government Energy Service, this interest is sufficiently met by the Welsh Government's commitment to publish the evaluation report once it is complete. The harms associated with releasing an incomplete, unverified draft- including the risk of misleading the public, undermining the evaluation process, and reducing the quality of information available, carry significant weight in the public interest test.

On balance, the public interest in withholding the information currently outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Releasing the report only when the evaluation is finalised ensures that accurate, reliable, and properly contextualised information is placed in the public domain, which better serves the broader public interest.