



Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 26678

23 February 2026

Dear ,

Request for information - ATISN 26678

Thank you for your request for environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the 'EIR Regs'), which I received on 7 February. You asked for the below recorded information for the time period of 1 April 2013 to present day:

1. Critical assessments provided by Natural Resources Wales to Welsh Government

All recorded briefings, submissions, advice notes or correspondence supplied by Natural Resources Wales to Welsh Government Ministers or senior officials which:

- Assess or evaluate Natural Resources Wales' effectiveness or capacity to act as the environmental regulator;
- Identify limitations, risks or weaknesses in regulatory enforcement, compliance or prosecution; and
- Refer to concerns about persistent environmental deterioration linked to regulatory under-performance

2. Welsh Government's responses to those assessments

For each document disclosed under point 1 above, please provide the corresponding recorded Welsh Government response, including:

- Written replies or correspondence sent to Natural Resources Wales;
- Ministerial or official decisions, directions or instructions issued in response; and
- Any recorded acceptance, rejection or modification of the issues raised by Natural Resources Wales.

Our response



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.

Your request for environmental information under the EIR Regs had been considered in two parts. The first part is in relation to providing all recorded briefings, submissions, advice notes, etc. supplied by Natural Resources Wales to Welsh Government Ministers or senior officials.

Natural Resources Wales has published all its assessments/reports, produced and shared with Welsh Government Ministers and or senior officials, via its website. These include [Annual Reports](#) and [performance reports and dashboards within its Board papers](#). These hyperlinks identify their locations.

With regard to the second part of your request, related to Welsh Government's response to the assessments/reports provided by Natural Resources Wales, Ministerial or official decisions, directions or instructions issued in response, and any recorded acceptance, rejection or modification of the issues raised by Natural Resources Wales. Regulation 12 (4)(b) of the EIR Regs allows a public authority to refuse environmental information requested if the request for information is manifestly unreasonable.

The sponsorship team has reviewed only three quarters of its files for the past six months to identify items that could fall within this latter request, this process has taken over 90 minutes. On this basis, we expect the time to process this request, for the period 1 April 2013 to present, to be in excess of 40 working hours to collate all the information we hold that would be caught by your request. Whilst there is no set limit as to what constitutes 'manifestly unreasonable' it is considered that the 'appropriate limit' provided by the Fol Act provides a good starting position. For central government bodies, this appropriate limit will be exceeded if a request would require more than 24 hours work to determine, locate, retrieve and extract information in order to respond to a request. The exception provided by Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR Regs, however, is not restricted to the collation of the requested information. Looking at the information identified in the sampling exercise, described above, it is clear that there will be information that will need to be redacted under other exemptions, such as Regulation 13 'personal data' of the EIR Regs. As such, on top of the 40+ working hours required to collate the information we estimate that considering and redacting excepted information will at least double the time required to comply with your request.

You may resubmit a revised, more time focussed request which could relate to clarifying the question asked, information sought etc. Please note, any revised request 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

or 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