

18 February 2026

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 26605

I wrote to you on 26 January regarding your request for information.

Your request

You asked for the following information regarding historic funding and tender awards relating to publishing activity delivered by or through the Books Council of Wales, to comprise:

1. Revenue funding for publishers:

For each financial year from 2014-15 to 2024-25 inclusive, a list of all publishers or organisations that received any form of ongoing or multi-year revenue funding for publishing activity via the Books Council of Wales or directly from the Welsh Government.

- For each year and each recipient, you asked for:
 - the name of the organisation
 - the name of the funding stream or scheme, if recorded
 - the amount awarded for that year
 - whether the award was part of a multi-year arrangement, and if so the total intended length of that arrangement.

2. Tender based funding awards:

For each financial year from 2014-15 to 2024-25, information on any competitive tender exercises run by or through the Books Council of Wales for publishing related revenue or franchise support, including but not limited to revenue publisher franchises and supported post tenders.

- For each tender, you asked for:
 - the name of the tender or scheme
 - the year the tender was awarded
 - the names of all successful organisations
 - the amount awarded to each successful organisation and the duration of the award
 - if recorded, the total number of bids received
 - if recorded and disclosable, the names of all organisations that submitted bids

If some of this information is held in tender summary reports or briefing notes supplied to the Welsh Government, you are content to receive those documents instead of, or in addition to, tabular data.

3. Title based grants for publishers:

For each financial year from 2014-15 to 2024-25, a list of all organisations that received title based publishing grants for individual books or series of books via the Books Council of Wales.

- For each year and each organisation, you asked for:
 - the name of the organisation
 - the total number of titles funded in that year
 - the total amount awarded in that year for title grants
 - If available in existing records, a breakdown by category that is already recorded, for example adult fiction, poetry, children's, non-fiction.

4. *Summary or analytical documents:*

- Copies of any internal Welsh Government or Creative Wales documents already held which:
 - summarise or analyse the distribution of publishing related funding via the Books Council of Wales over any part of this period of 2014-15 to 2024-25, or
 - comment on the concentration or spread of such funding across organisations, or
 - review or evaluate the operation or outcomes of publishing related tenders run by or through the Books Council of Wales.

Our response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some of the information you have requested.

For questions one and two, some of this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information otherwise available. The Books Council of Wales' (BCW) Annual Reports are available online at [CORPORATE DOCUMENTS | Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru](#) for 2017-2025. Annual Reports 2015-16 and 2016-17 are attached. We do not hold the Annual Report 2014-15; however, the item appears to be held in the National Library of Wales' catalogue at [Adroddiad blynyddol = Annual report / Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru. - National Library of Wales](#).

For question three, information on the name of the organisation and the total amount awarded in that year for title grants are provided with the above response for questions 1 and 2. We do not hold information on the total number of titles funded in that year and the breakdown by category that is already recorded for example adult fiction, poetry, children's and non-fiction.

For question four, please see the attached spreadsheet and the Quarterly Review Meeting papers.

Please note that some of the information we hold has been withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000, Commercial Interests. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is appended at Annex A, at the end of 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: 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 – ATISN 26605

Application of exemptions

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.

Section 43 (2) – Commercial Interests

The information caught by this exemption relates to the commercial information held in some of the Quarterly Review papers.

Decisions relating to non-disclosure of this information have been taken with due consideration of the exemptions identified under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This exemption states that:

- (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Section 43 is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption. This means that in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it. I have therefore given consideration to the effects of disclosure of the information to the world at large as the information is made available to anybody and everybody, not just the requestor.

Public Interest For Release

I recognise the general public interest in openness and transparency and releasing the information would help the public gain a better understanding of the decisions made by Government. It is also recognised that there is a public interest in how public money is to be, or has been, used to ensure that Government gets the best value from the public purse.

Public Interest Against Release

To disclose the commercial information held in the Quarterly Review papers would mean disclosing the names of the individual companies. This would enable the world to identify which companies operational and financial data we have decided to release. These companies do not expect us to disclose their commercial information, as they rely on this in order to undertake their business activities in a competitive market. This information is commercially sensitive to these companies and, as such, there is a risk of its disclosure causing the companies commercial disadvantage.

I believe the public interest is satisfied by the amount of information being disclosed in response to this request for information.

I am aware that as a general rule, the sensitivity of information is likely to reduce over time, so that the age of information, or timing of the request may be relevant in determining whether to apply the exemption, or where the public interest may lie. In this case, however, the information captured remains sensitive.

In conclusion, I believe that the balance of the public interest therefore falls in favour of withholding the commercial information relating to the Quarterly Review papers.