

12/02/2026

Dear

## **ATISN 26622**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 27/01/2026. You asked for: information on if the Welsh Government or any associated body provided funding (and if so, how much was granted or loaned, and for what purpose) to Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust to purchase Rhos-farch Farm, Pennal, Machynlleth, Gwynedd, SY20 9DY, or if no funding was provided, has the Welsh Government or any associated body had any dealings with the Wildlife Trust in relation to the named property.

### **Our response**

I have reviewed the information held by Welsh Government in relation to your request.

No information is held in relation to the request for, 'information on if Welsh Government or any associated body provided funding (and if so, how much was granted or loaned, and for what purpose) to Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust to purchase Rhos-farch Farm, Pennal, Machynlleth'. In relation to the request, 'if no funding was provided, has the Welsh Government or any associated body had any dealings with the Wildlife Trust in relation to the named property', a copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed

I have decided that personal information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 13 Environmental Information Regulations and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are 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

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide 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:

- Names and email addresses of correspondents – Regulation 13 – Personal data

## Engagement of Regulation 13

Regulation 13 of the EIRs provides an exception if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

'Personal data' is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 ('the DPA 2018') and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual 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 the individual.

I have concluded that, in this instance, the information requested contains personal data.

Under Regulation 13(1) 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”*  
The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the FOIA is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

*“processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child”.*

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

- **The Legitimate interest test:** Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;

- **The Necessity test:** Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
- **The Balancing test:** Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

### **1. Legitimate interests**

I recognise that there may be legitimate interests in the disclosure of environmental information. In line with ICO guidance, such interests can include general principles of transparency and accountability, ensuring public authorities can be scrutinised, as well as any case-specific interest put forward by the requester. These are valid considerations and have been taken into account when assessing this request. However, in this case the legitimate interest is general in nature and does not require the disclosure of identifiable personal data in order to be met.

### **2. Is disclosure necessary?**

I have considered whether disclosure of the personal data is necessary to meet any legitimate interests in transparency or accountability. The information requested includes personal data relating to identifiable individual(s) who would have a reasonable expectation that their personal details would remain confidential and would not be released into the public domain.

Disclosure of the identifiable personal data is not necessary to meet any legitimate interest, as the aims of transparency and accountability can be met through less intrusive means, by releasing the communications with the names redacted. The names are not necessary to meet the legitimate interests identified in the request.

### **3. The balance between legitimate interests and the data subject's interests or fundamental rights and freedoms**

I have weighed any legitimate interest in disclosure against the interests, rights and freedoms of the data subject(s). The individual(s) concerned would have a strong and reasonable expectation that their personal data would be kept private and not disclosed to the world at large under the EIR. Disclosure would be unfair to the individual(s) and would result in an unwarranted intrusion into their private life.

I also consider that disclosure has the potential to cause unnecessary and unjustified harm or distress to the individual(s) concerned. Releasing the information would be contrary to their reasonable expectations and would interfere with their right to respect for private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. ICO guidance states that where an individual would not reasonably expect public disclosure, and/or where disclosure would cause unjustified harm, their rights are likely to outweigh any legitimate interest in disclosure.

In this case, the rights and freedoms of the individual(s) clearly outweigh the general legitimate interests in transparency. Disclosure would therefore be unlawful and unfair, and would breach the first data protection principle. As a result, the personal

data is exempt from disclosure under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Therefore, disclosure of the personal data is not necessary for any legitimate interest and would be unfair and intrusive, so the information is exempt under Regulation 13(1) EIR.