

13 February 2026

Dear

ATISN 26694 – Merthyr Tydfil Council

Thank you for your request which I received on 11 February, which is a follow-up to your previous request, **ATISN 26553**.

You have asked for information from the time period of 1 January 2022 to the present day and you are seeking information held by the Welsh Government in relation to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Your information request is as follows:

1. Any ministerial briefings, update reports, or submissions equivalent to those supplied in ATISN 26553.
2. Any further reviews, assessments, or evaluations of the statutory support package provided under sections 28–29 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
3. Any updated SWOT analyses, risk assessments, or position statements produced by the Improvement and Assurance Board or Welsh Government officials.
4. Any correspondence between Welsh Government and the Improvement and Assurance Board concerning Merthyr's progress, governance, or leadership.
5. Any summaries or advice provided to Ministers on whether statutory support should be continued, modified, reduced, or escalated.

You have also asked for us to clearly indicate any exemptions, if any information is withheld.

Our response

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

To provide you with the information that you have requested would require searches of several thousand files across a range of years and topics which fall within the potential broad scope of this request. In order to establish whether any particular document falls within the scope of the request, the document must be located and extracted and then reviewed. Reviewing the document is a manual process, and we calculate, based on an exercise, that the review of just those documents identified by keyword searches would require 241 hours of work. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required.

Please see our practical guide to making a request to Welsh Government here:
[Requesting information from the Welsh Government \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

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