

11 March 2026

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 26703

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 11 February.

Your request

You asked for the following information:

- All communications, including texts, transcripts and meeting minutes, between Vaughan Gething MS and representatives of Rolls-Royce Holdings between 1/1/2021 to present (10/02/2026).

Our Response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some information captured by your request.

The information we have identified is a letter from Tom Samson, former CEO at Rolls-Royce on 1 August 2022.

A meeting was held on 26 September 2022 regarding a historic site selection process, however, any information relating to the letter and this meeting is exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, commercial interest. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is appended at Annex A.

We do not hold any such information past the point that Vaughan Gething MS ceased to be a Minister. Ministerial meetings and engagement information can be found at the following link:

[Ministerial meetings and engagements | 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: 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

Engagement of section 43 (Commercial Interest) of the Freedom of Information Act
The information caught by this exemption relates to the Tom Samson, former CEO of Rolls Royce SMR meeting. 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). In this case discussion included commercially sensitive information, which runs through the whole discussion. Captured information would be commercially sensitive as it would outline the Welsh sites under consideration, and background discussion about these, which, if placed in the public domain, would be likely to affect the decision-making process, which causes clear commercial harm.

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.

Public Interest Against Release

It is not in the public interest that commercial harm arise to public companies, nor that commercial harm should arise by pre-empting a decision making process in which closed discussions create a safe space for the decisions to be made. In this case, the harm, should the information discussed be released prematurely into the public domain, is a clear commercial harm. This is a time limited exemption reason. As decisions are made, the public interest in transparency of the decision making process may be satisfied by publication of this material at a later date.

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 is very much current information.

In conclusion, I believe that the balance of the public interest therefore falls in favour of withholding the information relating to this matter, at this time.