

17 March 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request which I received on 12 February 2026, you asked for the following:

All correspondence (emails, letters, and meeting minutes) held by the Office of the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning (Rebecca Evans) regarding the Mynydd Maen Wind Farm (Ref: DNS/3276725).

To include communications with the developer (RES), local authorities, and internal ministerial briefings from January 1, 2025, to the present.

Our response

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as the information you have requested relates to a Development of National Significance (DNS) application and therefore falls within the definition of environmental information under Regulation 2(1).

We conducted an initial scoping exercise across our case management system and email folders to understand the volume of material potentially within scope. After carrying out this review, we have determined that your request should be refused under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, on the grounds that it is manifestly unreasonable.

This exception applies where complying with a request would impose a grossly disproportionate burden on Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) in terms of time, resources, or disruption to essential functions.

We have estimated that responding to your request would require:

- locating information held across more than one Divisions case files,
- reviewing approximately 25 folders in one specific case file, one of which contains over 800 separate e-mails,
- an average of 1 hour per folder,
- a total estimated effort of 25 Hours

In addition, a significant amount of time would be required to identify and redact personal data and other exempt material.

Given the volume and nature of the information, fulfilling this request would require a significant and unreasonable diversion of staff from core statutory duties, including registering and processing planning and enforcement appeals casework, DNS casework and issuing Inspectors' decisions.

The Regulations do not contain a fixed cost limit for processing environmental information requests. However, the Information Commissioner recognises that public authorities are entitled to rely on Regulation 12(4)(b) where the burden of complying would be manifestly unreasonable.

As this exception is subject to the public interest test, we have considered the balance of factors.

Public interest in disclosure

- promoting transparency about environmental decisions
- supporting public understanding and scrutiny
- contributing to informed participation in environmental matters

Public interest in maintaining the exception

- protecting public resources and ensuring efficient use of staff time
- preventing a substantial diversion of staff away from statutory casework
- ensuring the authority can continue to carry out essential environmental and planning functions effectively

On balance, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

We have considered our obligations under Regulation 9 Duty to Advise and Assist.

To assist you, we invite you to refine or narrow your request. For example, you may wish to reduce the scope by limiting it to:

- a specific subject or
- specific documents, exchanges, rather than all material held

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely