

Our Ref: 26844

28 April 2026

Dear

Information requested

Thank you for your request which we received on 28 March 2026. You asked for the following information relating to Bethel Chapel / Bethel Street Indoor Market, also referred to as the 'Hanging Gardens' project in Llanidloes:

1. Funding applications, supporting documents and decision notices
2. Funding agreements and conditions
3. Documents or correspondence that relate to market operation or trader provision
4. Powys County Council reports, cabinet papers or decisions relating to the project. Correspondence between the Powys County Council, Llanidloes Town Council and The Wilderness Trust (Wales) Ltd.

You asked for this information from 1 January 2022 to present.

Our response

I have decided that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exceptions are set out in full at Annex 1 to this letter.

1. Funding applications, supporting documents and decision notices

The Hanging Gardens project has received funding from three Welsh Government grant programmes; Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant, Community Facilities Programme and Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme.

Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant

Two applications have been approved for Transforming Towns (TT) Placemaking Grant funding: £250,000 grant to support the renovation of Bethel Street Market in 2024-2025 and £45,000 grant awarded for the development of Bethel Street Community Kitchens in 2025-2026 (ref: R567). The following documents are attached:

Bethel Chapel Indoor Market (2024)

- TT Application Form
- TT Score Report
- TT Extract from Regional Panel Report

Bethel Street Community Kitchens (2025)

- TT Application Form
- TT Score Report
- TT Extract from Regional Panel Report

Decision-making for TT Placemaking Grant projects is devolved to local authorities in the Mid Wales region, with Powys County Council acting as the lead authority for this grant scheme. Applications and supporting information are therefore submitted to Powys County Council, not Welsh Government. The application form, score report and regional panel report are shared with Welsh Government for the Regional Panel meeting. Please note that where the application forms refer to additional attachments, these documents are not held by Welsh Government. If further information is required, please contact Powys County Council.

Community Facilities Programme

One grant was awarded from the Community Facilities Programme (CFP) for £246,780 over a two-year period to complete works on the Hanging Gardens Project including 180 sqm of new community space. The following documents are attached:

- CFP Expression of Interest
- CFP Full Application
- CFP Panel Report
- CFP Extract from Ministerial Advice
- CFP Award Offer Letter

Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

Two grant awards have been made from the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS): £49,999 between July 2023 and July 2025 for the Community Workshops, and £49,999 between June 2025 and June 2026 for the Community Kitchen.

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) administer this grant on behalf of Welsh Government and therefore all applications, assessment and award processes are dealt with by WCVA. Once the application and award process has been completed, WCVA share their panel reports with the Welsh Government. The following documents are therefore attached:

- LDTCS Community Workshops – Grant Summary
- LDTCS Community Workshops – Panel Report
- LDTCS Community Kitchen – Grant Summary
- LDTCS Community Kitchen – Panel Report

Should you wish to seek any further information in relation to this grant funding, please contact WCVA. The grants team can be contacted at 0300 111 0124 or ldtgrants@wcva.cymru.

Other funding

Funding applications and associated documents for UK Community Renewal Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund are the responsibility of UK Government and are not held by Welsh Government. We therefore recommend that you contact Powys County Council or UK Government for this information.

2. Funding agreements and conditions

The funding award letter for Community Facilities Programme grant funding is attached, as noted in the documents listed above.

For TT Placemaking Grant funding, the funding agreements and award letters are between Powys County Council and the applicant. This information request would therefore need to be made to Powys County Council.

For LDTCS, the funding agreements and award letters are between WCVA and the applicant. This information request would therefore need to be made to WCVA.

3. Documents or correspondence that relate to market operation or trader provision

I have included correspondence from Powys County Council to the Welsh Government Regeneration Team about the progress on the Bethel Chapel Indoor Market project under the Transforming Towns programme.

4. Powys County Council reports, cabinet papers or decisions relating to the project. Correspondence between the Powys County Council, Llanidloes Town Council and The Wilderness Trust (Wales) Ltd.

As set out in my acknowledgement letter dated 01 April 2026, this request relates solely to items held by Powys County Council, which Welsh Government would not have access to. We therefore recommend that you contact Powys County Council for this information. Advice on making a request to Powys County Council can be found at: [Make a Freedom of Information request \(or EIR\) - Powys County Council](#).

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 1 - Application of exemptions/exceptions

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:

- Financial information and estimates to be used as the basis of a forthcoming tender.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of regulation 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations and the subsequent public interest test.

In the first instance, I find that the subject matter meets the definition of environmental information, and that this is therefore the appropriate regime under which to treat this request.

Regulation 12(5)(e) – Commercial or Industrial Information

Regulation 12(5)(e) states a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

Officials have carefully considered all of the information captured by this request and consider that some of the information in question should be exempt under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – Commercial or industrial information.

The information being withheld is financial information and estimates that are relevant to a forthcoming tender process, provided to the Welsh Government under the common law understanding of confidentiality. Release of the requested information would harm the legitimate interests of the third party in that it would place their commercial information in the public domain that would disadvantage them in an open tender process.

This is a public interest tested exemption, which means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public Interest in Favour of Disclosure

There is a clear public interest in understanding any issues relating to the disbursement of public funds or implementation of public policy. The Welsh

Government is committed to openness and transparency, and it is in the public interest that we release information on the requested matter to meet these ends.

Public Interest in Favour of Withholding

It is not in the public interest that those who interact with Welsh Government, and supply us information in the course of those dealings and on a voluntary basis should suffer commercial loss as a result of such interaction, or the sharing of such information. It is also not in the public interest that such companies and organisations be discouraged from interaction with government by the likelihood of such loss.

Balance of the Public Interest

In this case, the information request is wide ranging, and it is not clear that the financial information is required to meet the commitment to openness and transparency, or to meet the information need of the requestor. Without a clear and countervailing public interest in disclosure of the financial information specifically, and in the absence of a clear need to release the third party's information to meet our commitments to public information, I find that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the requested information.