



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 26920
Date: 22 May 2026

Dear ,

ATISN 26920 – Freedom of Information (FOI) request statistics

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 April. You asked for the following information:

Data covering the past five years, broken down by month, the total number of FOI requests received. For those requests, how many were refused, and a breakdown of the reasons for refusal (again, by month).

In addition, any and all other relevant statistics, management information, or analysis you hold relating to FOI requests and responses, including but not limited to any data on the performance of the FOI unit and individual departments in handling these requests.

On 6 May, you clarified that your request was seeking the following:

By “individual departments”, I mean whatever internal organisational breakdown Welsh Government uses or holds for FOI management purposes. Please provide the information at the lowest recorded level available, whether that is Directorate General, directorate, division, branch, team, business area, policy area, allocation code, or any equivalent internal unit.

By “statistics, management information, or analysis”, I mean recorded information already held about FOI handling, volumes, outcomes, timeliness, refusals, exemptions, internal reviews, complaints, or performance, including regular reports, dashboards, spreadsheets, trackers, tables, summaries or similar material.

Our response

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600 or 24 hours. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

The Information Rights Unit produce many regular freedom of information summary statistics and management information reports and Groups and Directorates within Welsh Government also produce their own. A scoping exercise on our Welsh Government document database using various search terms (such as 'Freedom of Information statistics, 'FOI analysis') has identified over 5,000 documents in the time frame you have requested.

We estimate that it would take 30 seconds to investigate each document found in the search to see if it contains any relevant information. In total this exercise would take us more than 41 hours. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

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. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible.

We do publish annually our open government report which gives some of information you have requested: [Open government reports | GOV.WALES](#)

We would be happy to provide you with an extract from our FOI database for the past 5 year covering: Reference, Status, Date Received, Target Date, Completed Date, Working Days Taken, Late, Completed Reason, Type, Department and Division. We can also provide similar raw data for internal reviews and complaints. Please confirm if you would like to receive this.

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 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