

May 2026

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 26770 Wentlooge Solar

Further to email of 15 April and your request for an internal review into our response to ATISN 26770, I have now undertaken the review and set out my findings below.

Your request asked for:

- A copy of the report Planning Inspector's report prepared for the Welsh Ministers in relation to the Development of National Significance application for Wentlooge Solar (Resubmission), reference number DNS CAS-01772-Z5P5D2, which was completed by Ms Melissa Hall in 2025, following the Public Hearing she conducted on the application on 1st & 2nd July.

My response

In the response dated 2 April 2026, it was confirmed some information was held that was caught by your request but it was withheld under Regulation 12(4)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs). In your complaint, you have challenged this decision.

I have carried out the review of the information held by the Welsh Government and agree with the conclusion reached by Mr Iles.

The Inspector's Report is clearly part of the advice provided to the Minister which is conducive to the public interest in respect of ensuring an efficient impartial and transparent planning system, which is fair to all. If the conclusions and recommendations of the officials contained within the Ministerial advice are released before a final decision is issued, there is a risk it will undermine the efficiency, transparency and impartiality of the planning process. If the Report were to be released prior to the decision being issued, in the interests of natural justice and procedural fairness it would have to be shared with all the parties involved.

It is in the wider public interest that officials and Ministers fully weigh up the competing arguments and for Ministers to reach a considered decision. Disclosure during such deliberations would provide an opportunity for both proponents for and those against the proposal to re-submit their case and in doing so delay the decision making process and the final outcome. In my view this situation would clearly not be in the wider public interest.

On the above basis I do not uphold your complaint.

Next steps

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information which is available by post on request or via the internet at: [Requesting information from the Welsh Government \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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.

Yours sincerely

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