

23 March 2026

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 26789

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

Your Request

You asked for the following information regarding the Welsh Government's internal analysis and policy consideration of productivity in Wales from the period 1 January 2019 to present:

1. Copies of any internal reports, briefing papers, or analytical documents produced by Welsh Government officials regarding productivity levels in Wales, including comparisons with other UK nations or regions.
2. Copies of any ministerial briefing notes, advice to Ministers, or submissions to Cabinet or Cabinet Sub-Committees relating to productivity performance in Wales.
3. Any internal dashboards, monitoring frameworks, or performance metrics used by Welsh Government departments to track productivity, economic output per worker, or related indicators.
4. Any correspondence or briefing material discussing the "productivity gap" between Wales and the wider UK economy.
5. Copies of any policy papers, strategy drafts, or discussion documents considering the development of a Welsh productivity strategy or productivity improvement programme.

Our Response

As your request currently stands, it is very extensive and would take an extortionate amount of time to deal with, as we search for this information on our Electronic Document and Records Management System, known as iShare. The sheer amount of information you have requested means it will exceed the appropriate limit, as the time it will take to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested will be substantial.

iShare is the corporate repository for information created and received by Welsh Government Officials in the course of their duties that must be retained for business or historical purposes. Further information about iShare can be found under Section 7 of our Information and Records Management policy, which is available on the

Welsh Government website. Documents are saved on iShare using naming conventions appropriate to the effective recording of information for our own purposes. Setting our systems in this way, and in line with our Records Management policy, enables effective delivery and will not necessarily lend themselves to being easily interrogated for generic requests for information.

An initial iShare search for “productivity performance in Wales” yielded 254,110 items. A search for “the productivity gap between Wales and the wider UK economy” yielded 78,856 items. I carried out a search for “development of a Welsh productivity strategy or productivity improvement programme” which yielded 154,253 items. To search for all of the information you have asked for will exceed the appropriate limit.

If we estimate it will take more than 24 working hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it, the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allow it to be refused. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600, representative of the estimated cost if taking over 24 working hours of time. Where the Welsh Government believes providing such information would involve tasks that would be too time consuming to deal with, we inform the requester of that fact and invite them to narrow down or re-focus their request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope and being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. For example, you may wish to limit the request to a few particular documents or categories of information focussing on a specific aspect of the subject matter. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request. Otherwise, you will receive a response by 13 April.

Personal Information

The request you sent contains personal information about you - for example, your name and email address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be ‘erased’
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability

- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely