

16 June 2026

Dear

ATISN 27008 – Research projects

Thank you for your request which I received on 22 May. You asked for:

- a breakdown of the total number of research projects commissioned by the Welsh Government between May 2021 and May 2026 (Sixth Senedd).
- a breakdown of the project title, who the contact was awarded to, the value of the contact, and the date of award.

Our response

Some of the information that you have requested is available in the public domain. The Welsh Government Contracts Register includes all contracts above £25,000 on Sell2Wales where a contract award notice has been published. This is accessible via this link: [Contracts search - Sell2Wales](#), where you can filter by a range of different research codes. The results can be exported to excel and provides the information requested, including project title, who the contact was awarded to, the value of the contact, and the date of award.

I have decided that **some of the information** is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the **Freedom of Information Act**. and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at Annex one to this letter.

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

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 - Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act 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:

A breakdown of the project title, who the contract was awarded to, the value of the contact, and the date of award – where the value of the contract is below £25,000.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the **engagement of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000)**.

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

Information about research projects below £25,000 would fall to be considered under the FOIA. However, the information related to this are not kept in one place and significant time would be required to locate, retrieve and extract it from recorded information held across Welsh Government.

An initial search on Welsh Government's finance system has identified 521 potential transactions that are in scope of your request and include part of the information requested. If we initially considered information just relating to these transactions, I estimate it would take

- at least 3 minutes per transaction to retrieve and verify information that is held to identify that which falls within the scope of your request
- at least 30 minutes for every team leader (x26) to verify information for each topic area and complete the information requested and to check for anomalies and cross check with non-financial records

The limit is therefore exceeded – 39 hours.

To that end, I would be grateful if you could further refine your request. For example, which types of research methodologies or a specific research topic; or consider reducing the time period in scope. Under the FOI Act, a data controller such as Welsh Government is able to refuse requests for information where they are regarded as 'excessive'. Without additional parameters from you, we would be obliged to interrogate the entirety of our electronic finance records, with a manual check from 26 different teams. This task is regarded as 'excessive' and part of your request is refused on that basis.