6 July 2026

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 26946

I am responding to your request.

Your request

You asked for:

1. **Details of Agreements and Land Use**
    a) Copies of any leases, licences, option agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other arrangements with energy companies or developers relating to wind or solar projects in the Dulais Valley.
    b) The names of the companies involved, and the locations and extent of land affected.

2. **Project Proposals and Status**
    a) A list of all proposed, planned, or approved renewable energy developments (wind and solar) within the Dulais Valley area.
    b) The status of each project (e.g. early feasibility, consultation, planning submitted, consented, under construction) as at this current time.

3. **Correspondence and Communications**
    a. Copies of correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting notes, and internal briefings) between:
        i. Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government, and/or
        ii. Either body and third-party developers, relating to renewable energy developments in the Dulais Valley within the past 5 years.

4. **Community Engagement**
    a) Records of any community engagement, consultation plans, or public communication strategies relating to these developments.
    b) Any assessments or discussions regarding local community impact or public opposition.

5. **Environmental and Landscape Assessments**
    a) Copies of environmental impact assessments, landscape and visual impact assessments, or ecological surveys undertaken or commissioned.
    b) Any internal reviews or concerns raised regarding environmental or landscape impacts.

6. **Policy and Decision-Making**
    a) Documents outlining the policy basis for permitting or promoting such developments on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate.

b) Internal guidance, criteria, or decision-making frameworks used to assess proposals in this area.

7. **Financial Information**
   a) Any financial models, projected revenues, or economic benefit assessments associated with leasing land for renewable energy developments in the Dulais Valley.

Our Response

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed. To note, Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is currently a live application with PEDW, and all associated documentation is available for access on their website at this link Reference: CAS-02084-T4Z8W4

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

NRW may have information regarding developments within the Dulais Valley that they can consider sharing. Details on submitting an FOI request to NRW are on their website.

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 A

Application of exceptions

The 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:

Ministerial Advice regarding the Section 83 process
Several applications from NRW were received requesting access to land via the Welsh Government Woodland Estate. Ministerial advice was drafted to inform the minister of the legal and environmental obligations and to make a recommendation as to whether the agreements being sought should be approved.

Most of the information held within this document was not relevant to the request and also meets the exemption of 12 (5) e of the EIR for confidentiality of commercial or industrial information. A summary of this document has been provided.

Right of Access request (linked to the ministerial advice above)
An application referring specifically to Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park for access to land proposed for the development of an onshore wind site received by NRW. Any information not captured by the request and meets the exemption of 12 (5) e of the EIR for confidentiality of commercial or industrial information has been redacted from the document.

Ministerial Advice – S83 applications summary

The briefing deals with 11 requests from Natural Resources Wales ("NRW") for the Welsh Ministers' approval under the terms of an existing agreement made between them under section 83 of Government of Wales Act 2006 (GoWA) referred to as "the section 83 agreement". The requests are cases involving the lease of land and the granting of non-exclusive access rights, in relation to parts of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE), to facilitate renewable energy projects (onshore wind and cable easement).

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is a named site which is captured by the information request requesting agreement under section 83 for access to WGWE as a throughway to land for potential onshore wind developments.

Decisions under the section 83 agreement are unconnected to any future planning decision, and any requirements of the planning system must also be adhered to by the developer.

Approvals under this process only provide NRW the ability to allow a developer to undertake further investigations of the sites and gather evidence required to support applications for the relevant consents required. Due to the nature of how early in the stages of the planning process the site named in the ministerial advice, all information received pertaining to the section 83 process is high level, and further information is subject for submission as part of the panning process.
It was recommended to the minister that the application under section 83 is approved in relation to Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.