

30 July 2026

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 27008

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.

In your original request dated 22 May 2026 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..."

In the Welsh Government's response, you were directed to the Sell2Wales site that hosts publicly available information on contracts that exceed £25,000 that would partially satisfy your information request.

You were also advised that to provide information held on contracts below £25,000 would exceed the appropriate limits set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. It was therefore withheld.

The Welsh Government's response invited you to further refine your request. You subsequently wrote requesting us to:

"...provide a compiled list of all research projects it has funded between May 2021 and May 2026 with a value exceeding £25,000 (including the project title, who the contract was awarded to, the contract value, and the date of award). This list should be based not only on the information available via Sell2Wales, but also on the Welsh Government's own internal records (something which is not available those outside of Welsh Government)."

In the Welsh Government's first response we set out the methodology for calculating the time required to meet your original request, as follows:

- 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

Having reviewed the methodology and information used to calculate the time required to fulfil your original request I am satisfied that a clear and reasoned approach was used.

In relation to your request for a review, and a change of scope, I am also satisfied that your revised scope would also fall outside of the allowable limits. The reasoning

for this is that your new request would not materially reduce the level of work required. Whilst the request has narrowed the financial threshold it continues to require input from approximately 26 separate teams and in addition now seeks information compiled from both Welsh Government internal systems and the publicly available information on the Sell2Wales platform.

Although the **Freedom of Information Act** provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities, it does not require authorities to undertake substantial analysis, collation or re-presentation of information where doing so would exceed the statutory cost limit. In this case, you are seeking the creation of a consolidated dataset from information that is already publicly available through Sell2Wales, supplemented by information drawn from internal systems. While I note your concerns regarding the usability of the Sell2Wales platform, the Act is not intended to require public authorities to replace or replicate the task of identifying, retrieving and organising information that is already available to the public.

I am therefore satisfied with the original decision to withhold information under section 12 of the **Freedom of Information Act**, and that this still applies to your revised request. As such your complaint is not upheld.

Next steps

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

Deputy Director – Digital Policy, Workforce & Change