

Annex A

Extract from email from Peter Haskell to Freedom of Information Officers, 4 July 2026

I ask the internal reviewer to reconsider the decision from first principles and address the following points directly.

1. Did the Welsh Government assess the full request as made, including the sequential-processing provision?
2. Were any searches actually run?
3. If searches were run, what systems, mailboxes or repositories were searched?
4. How many records were identified by each search phrase?
5. How many records were identified by the first search phrase alone?
6. Was the burden of processing the first search phrase alone assessed?
7. If so, what was the estimated burden?
8. Was a sample review carried out?
9. If so, what did it show?
10. Why did the sequential fallback not permit partial compliance?
11. To the extent the concern was determining, locating, retrieving or extracting information, why was the request not dealt with under section 12 with an estimate and advice and assistance?
12. To the extent the concern was exemption review, sensitivity analysis or redaction, what evidence supports the higher section 14 threshold of grossly oppressive burden?
13. Why was a schedule-only response not possible?
14. Why were redaction and partial disclosure not possible?
15. Why were substantive exemptions not applied to specific information?
16. Why was section 16 advice and assistance not provided, despite being expressly requested if even the first search term alone would exceed the appropriate limit?
17. Why is the purpose and value of this request characterised as merely general or incremental, given the clear democratic concern about state neutrality in a live area of political contestation?