

17 August 2026

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 27037

Thank you for your request for information regarding AI Growth Zones. We apologise for the late response.

Information requested

Copies of any applications held by the Welsh Government for North Wales and South Wales to host, or form part of, an AI Growth Zone

Our response

I can confirm we hold some information relating to your request. I have attached a copy of the South Wales submission, however I have concluded that some of the information within the document is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is given at Annex A to this letter.

I can confirm that we do not hold the information relating to the North Wales submission.

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: 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 A

ATISN 27037 – Consideration For and Against Disclosure of Information

Decisions relating to non-disclosure have been taken with due consideration of the exemption identified under Section 43(2), commercial interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 43 is a qualified (public interest tested) exemption and in order to engage it, I must show that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in releasing it. I have therefore given consideration to the effects of disclosure of the information to the world at large, as the information is made available to anybody and everybody, not just the requestor. As such, when considering your request I have considered the wider effects of disclosure rather than any personal interest you may have in being provided with the information.

Section 43(2) – commercial interests

The exemption states:

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The Welsh Government(WG) is of the view that revealing the information in the tables contained within the document would prejudice the commercial interests of the company should it be disclosed at this point in time.

The tables contain confidential information pertaining to the company's business strategy and concern individual sites not yet formally announced. The company does not hold this kind of information on its competitors and would prejudice their commercial interests if this information were disclosed.

The information would reveal commercially sensitive information not otherwise publically available and which, if disclosed would be likely to prejudice their service offering and future strategy and development. The company does not hold this kind of information on competitors and it would prejudice their commercial interests if this information were disclosed.

Disclosing the information would give the company a disadvantage in future dealings for any potential future negotiations. It would also place them at a distinct commercial disadvantage when negotiating and therefore prejudice their ability to engage in future commercial activities. It would also allow any other potential competitors an insight into their methodology and proprietary information they would otherwise not have considered. We do not believe that facilitating this type of unfair competitive advantage would be in the wider public interest.

Public Interest Test For Disclosure

The Welsh Government recognises the public interest in openness and transparency within government, particularly in terms of ensuring an accountable government by disclosing how the Welsh Government spends public money and that the money is invested wisely.

Public Interest Against Disclosure

Disclosure of this information would provide competitors a level of information not otherwise available to them. We do not believe facilitating this type of unfair competitive advantage would be in the wider public interest.

To freely disclose the information would give competitors a distinct commercial advantage and stepping stone which would be likely to prejudice the company's ability to engage in fair and level playing field for their commercial activities. The company do not have access to similar information on its competitors as they do not publish it, so would be at a significant disadvantage. We believe the resultant harm should this information be released, would be substantial.

Whilst the withheld information would be of interest to other competitors, we do not believe it would be of sufficient interest to the wider public. Release of the information would also allow potential competitors access to a level of detail that they otherwise wouldn't have, so as to enable them to obtain a commercial advantage by understanding and potentially copying the methodology and processes. I do not believe that facilitating this type of unfair competitive advantage would be in the wider public interest. I further do not believe there is a public interest in prejudicing the commercial interests of the company by the release of this information.

I am aware that, as a general rule, the sensitivity of information is likely to reduce over time; therefore the age of the information, or timing of the request, may be relevant in determining whether to apply an exemption, or where the public interest may lie. In this case, however, the information captured is very much current information. I believe therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.