26.08.2026

Dear

ATISN 27203: Devolution of the Crown Estate

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 10.07.2026. You asked for information regarding the financial and practical implications of devolving the Crown Estate in Wales.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is either in the public domain or not held by the Welsh Government.

The Crown Estate publishes an annual report and accounts, which set out the latest publicly available information on its financial performance, including revenue figures for the relevant reporting year and a Wales Review. They also publish regular news stories regarding their activity.

HM Treasury is the UK Government department with lead responsibility for matters relating to the Crown Estate, with the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury currently responsible for the Crown Estate.

The previous Welsh Government published the interim report of the Group on the Future of the Crown Estate in Wales.

Regarding your questions directly:

> How much revenue is currently generated overall by Crown Estate assets / liabilities in Wales (please provide information from the latest fiscal year for which you hold data).

As set out above, the Crown Estate annual report contains this information.

> Any information you hold on current plans for the development of new Crown Estate projects planned to take place in Wales, as of 2026.

The Crown Estate's publications and regular news stories provide this information.

> Any information you hold on how much revenue devolution of the Crown Estate has been projected to provide to Welsh Government, should the matter be devolved.

This is information that the Welsh Government do not hold, as HM Treasury are the UK Government Department with responsibility relating to the Crown Estate.

In their interim report, with wording negotiated with the Crown Estate, the Group on the Future of the Crown Estate in Wales said: '*The Crown Estate currently raises most of its revenue in Wales from Offshore Wind, estimated in the period 2024 to 2025 as just under £500m from Round 4*.' In the latest Wales Review, the Crown Estate indicates that Round 4 of option fees in FY26 have raised £200.2m.

> In relation to devolution of the Crown Estate, please provide any information you hold on how much it would cost to devolve responsibility for the Crown Estate's management to the Welsh Government.

This is information that the Welsh Government do not hold, as HM Treasury are the UK Government Department with responsibility relating to the Crown Estate.

With regards to correspondence concerning The Crown Estate, an evidence submission was made by the organisation to the Group on the future of the Crown Estate in Wales which was shared with Ministers on a confidential basis. We have decided that information is exempt from disclosure under Sections 41 and 43(2).

With regards to briefings provided to Ministers, we have decided to withhold relevant Ministerial Advice and briefings under Section 35(1)(a) Formulation of Government Policy.

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: Application of Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This annex sets out the basis on which the Welsh Government has concluded that relevant ministerial policy briefings and The Crown Estate's evidence submission should be withheld under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The application of the exemptions has been considered in the context of the request, the status of the information, the purpose for which it was created or provided, and the public interest in disclosure or maintaining the exemptions.

Ministerial policy briefings: Section 35(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy

The relevant policy briefings and pieces of Ministerial Advice were prepared to advise Ministers on the Welsh Government's approach to the future of the Crown Estate in Wales, including issues relating to governance, accountability, transparency, partnership working and the potential implications of devolution. This work remains part of an active and developing policy area. Ministers are continuing to consider the Welsh Government's position, including the response to the interim report, the development of a future partnership with The Crown Estate and the evidence required to support any future business case or negotiation with the UK Government.

Section 35(1)(a) is engaged because the material relates directly to the formulation and development of government policy. The briefings contain advice, analysis, options, risk assessment and recommendations intended to support Ministerial decision-making. Disclosure at this stage would be likely to inhibit the provision of full and frank advice to Ministers and would risk exposing internal policy development before the Welsh Government has reached a settled position.

The Welsh Government recognises the public interest in transparency around the Crown Estate, particularly given the significant public and constitutional interest in the management of Welsh assets, offshore wind revenues, future investment in Wales and the accountability of The Crown Estate. There is also a public interest in understanding the evidence informing the Welsh Government's position. However, there is a stronger public interest in protecting sufficient space for Ministers and officials to consider evolving policy options, test the evidence base, assess risks and develop a coherent position before decisions are finalised or further engagement with the UK Government and The Crown Estate takes place.

On balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemption under section 35(1)(a) for the relevant ministerial advice and policy briefings.

The Crown Estate evidence submission: Section 41 – information provided in confidence

The Crown Estate provided evidence to the Group on the Future of the Crown Estate in Wales on a confidential basis. The evidence included Wales-specific financial, operational and investment information which was shared to support the Group's consideration of governance, accountability and the practical implications of

devolution. The information was not provided for general publication and was shared in circumstances importing an obligation of confidence.
Section 41 is engaged because disclosure would involve releasing information obtained from another person or organisation in circumstances where its disclosure would be actionable as a breach of confidence. The information was provided to inform a specific policy process and included material not otherwise available in the public domain at the time it was shared. Disclosure would undermine the basis on which the evidence was provided and could prejudice the Welsh Government's ability to obtain candid evidence from external organisations in future policy development processes.

Although section 41 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test under the Act, the Welsh Government has considered whether there is any wider public interest defence which would justify disclosure. There is a clear public interest in scrutiny of the Crown Estate's role in Wales. However, that interest is substantially met through the publication of the interim report, the Crown Estate's annual report and Wales Review, and other material already in the public domain. In the circumstances, the Welsh Government does not consider there to be a sufficient public interest defence to justify disclosure of the confidential submission.

The Crown Estate evidence submission: Section 43(2) – commercial interests

Section 43(2) is also engaged because the evidence submission contains commercially sensitive information relating to The Crown Estate's financial position, investment plans, future pipelines, risks and market assumptions. This includes information relevant to offshore wind, ports, supply chains and the wider investment environment in Wales. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of The Crown Estate and could affect its ability to engage with developers, investors and delivery partners in a competitive market.

The Welsh Government accepts that there is a public interest in transparency about expected revenues, investment in Wales and the extent to which Welsh communities benefit from Crown Estate activity. That interest is particularly strong where public debate has focused on the scale of offshore wind option fee revenues and the adequacy of Wales-specific reporting. However, the public interest in disclosure must be balanced against the risk of undermining commercially sensitive negotiations, investment planning and market confidence. Releasing detailed information provided confidentially by The Crown Estate could damage its commercial position and reduce the willingness of external organisations to provide commercially sensitive evidence to the Welsh Government in future.

On balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemption under section 43(2). The Welsh Government considers that the appropriate balance is to withhold the confidential submission while directing the requester to published sources and providing relevant contextual information where this can be done without disclosing exempt material.