

20 August 2026

Dear

ATISN 27262 – Water bombing aircraft

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 July 2026. You asked for:

1. The current number, type, and operational availability of water-bombing aircraft or helicopters held or contracted by your department or any agency under your authority.
2. Copies of any policies, guidance, or operational criteria governing when aerial firefighting resources may be deployed.
3. Any assessments, reviews, or risk analyses conducted since 2020 regarding the adequacy of aerial firefighting capability in light of increased wildfire activity.
4. Any inter-governmental or cross-agency agreements relating to the provision, funding, or deployment of aerial firefighting assets.
5. Records of all occasions since 2020 when aerial firefighting support was requested, approved, denied, or delayed, including reasons for any delays.
6. Any planned procurement, feasibility studies, or budget proposals relating to establishing a dedicated UK, Welsh, or Scottish aerial firefighting fleet.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government. This is because the Welsh Government is not directly involved in providing or contracting for aerial firefighting resources, although it does maintain an overview of capabilities available to support wildfire response. As part of that, we are aware that Natural Resources Wales holds a framework contract for the provision of aerial firefighting resources, and individual Fire and Rescue Services in Wales contract for them on an ad hoc basis. Those organisations may hold some or all of the information you seek.

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