



24/09/2026

Dear ,

ATISN 27420 Enforcement action

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 07/09/2026. You asked for:

1. A copy of the Welsh Government's enforcement policy and/or internal guidance relating to any decision to progress enforcement action arising from a breach of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008.
2. A copy of any other information relevant to the undertaking of enforcement action by Welsh Government arising from a breach of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008. For example training materials, internal publications or protocols.
3. For the time period January 2025 until now, 26th August 2026, a copy of information relating to investigations or prosecutions of suspected, alleged or actual breaches of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008.
4. A copy of any communication between South Wales Police, NRW and Welsh Government regarding a wildfire on Gower Common, near Cefn Bryn, which damaged a SSSI in April 2026

Our response

The information you requested, where available, is enclosed (attachments 3a – 3i). The details are set out below.

Welsh Government enforcement policy/guidance

Please see attached the GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) 4-6 Cross Compliance training slides for Rural Inspectorate Wales inspectors (3c), and also Guidance for Fire and Rescue Service and Police staff on Cross Compliance and grass burning (3g).

Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park,
Cardiff. CF10 3NQ
Swyddfeydd Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays,
Caerdydd. CF10 3NQ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Other information relevant to the undertaking of enforcement action

Please see 2026 Cross Compliance presentation slides (3e), and Cross Compliance Heather and grass burning training slides (3h). I am also providing the Cross Compliance check sheet (3i), reporting template used to report potential cross compliance breaches for heather and grass burning (3d), and the GAEC H – Heather and Grass Burning checklist (3f).

Grass burning referrals

I attach a document containing (redacted) details of referrals received during 2025 and 2026, and breach information in respect of two cases in 2025 (3b). Also attached is a copy of the Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards (3a) which sets out the requirements used to assess whether farmers are complying with the relevant rules. For Heather and Grass Burning, these requirements are under GAEC 6, specifically 6.2 & 6.3.

Communication regarding a wildfire on Gower Common

No such records are held by Welsh Government.

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