28 October 2026

Dear

ATISN 26-0045

Thank you for your request which I received on 16 October. You asked for the following information:

For the most recent full financial year available, and for each of the previous four financial years:

1. *The total number of overnight accommodation stays paid for or reimbursed by the Welsh Government where the accommodation was booked through Airbnb (including Airbnb for Work/Airbnb Business or any equivalent Airbnb booking platform).*
2. *The total number of nights associated with those stays.*
3. *The total expenditure on those stays.*
4. *The number of individual bookings made through Airbnb.*
5. *Any current policy, guidance, or instructions issued to staff regarding the use of Airbnb or similar short-term letting platforms for official business travel.*
6. *For each financial year, please also provide the number of overnight stays booked in hotels, guest houses and B&Bs.*

Our response

In relation to parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request.

The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

Our Travel and Subsistence (T&S) system does not hold details of the accommodation provider or accommodation type, so the information cannot be extracted through standard reporting. Identifying whether accommodation relates to Airbnb, hotels, guest houses or B&Bs would require a manual review of supporting receipts attached to individual claims.

An initial search, for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026, has identified 7,369 claims relating to overnight stays identified within the T&S system alone. This does not take account of other payment routes, such as purchase orders, e-payments, staff reimbursements, or the WPC.

At an estimate of taking 1 minute to investigate each claim to see if it contains any relevant information and to then extract it would take in excess of 24 hours for this exercise alone. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process these parts of your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request, please be as specific and focused as possible.

In relation to part 5 if your request, our T&S policy does not refer to Airbnb specifically but does permit rented accommodation in limited circumstances where it offers better value for money and has been approved in advance by a Deputy Director.

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely