06 November 2026

Dear

ATISN 26-0164

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 November. You asked for a copy of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services (KTIAS) Evaluation - Farming Connect document.

Our response

I have decided that whilst the information requested is held, it is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

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 exemption

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

Whilst the Welsh Government holds the information requested, I have decided to withhold the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services (KTIAS) Evaluation - Farming Connect document.

The final KTIAS Evaluation is currently being prepared for publication and is expected to be published on the Welsh Government website in the week commencing 14 December 2026.

At the time your request was received, there was already a clear intention to publish the evaluation. In accordance with the Welsh Government's Government Social Research (GSR) publication protocol, the report will remain under embargo until its formal publication.

We have therefore applied **section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, which provides an exemption for information that is held with a view to future publication where it is reasonable, in all the circumstances, to withhold the information until that publication takes place.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

Public interest in disclosure

We recognise the public interest in openness and transparency regarding the effectiveness of publicly funded programmes, including Farming Connect. Earlier disclosure would enable the findings of the evaluation to be considered before formal publication.

Public interest in maintaining the exemption

There is also a public interest in allowing the established GSR publication process to be completed. The evaluation is scheduled for publication shortly and will be made publicly available through the Welsh Government website. Maintaining the planned publication arrangements allows the final report to complete the necessary publication and quality assurance processes and ensures that it is released in an orderly and consistent manner, with the appropriate context, and is available to everyone at the same time.

Balance of the public interest

On balance, given the relatively short period before the planned publication of the evaluation, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in early disclosure. The public interest in transparency will shortly be met through publication of the evaluation on the Welsh Government website.

The KTIAS Evaluation is therefore withheld under **section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000** at this time.