

Further to my email of 19 March 2015, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information of 17 March 2015, which was:

Why did the Welsh government pay 52 million pounds for the airport when it was advertised in the international estate journal for 20 million?

Your email of 19 March 2015 set out "I understand that you are shortly publishing a report into the sale." That is correct, and I can confirm that we hold information as to why the Welsh Government paid £52 million for the airport. Such information falls within the exemption provided by section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication). While there is a public interest in the disclosure of this information, this will be met by publication. It is also in the public interest for the Auditor General to publish such information in the actual report itself (in timing of his own choosing and following the proper fact-checking process), rather than prematurely publishing a certain aspect of the report in isolation. I have therefore decided that the balance of the public interest is such that the exemption provided by section 22 should be maintained.

We do not hold recorded information regarding the £20 million figure you refer to.

If you wish to complain about my handling of your request, please email or write to me.

I must also refer you to section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act under which you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether or not your request has been dealt with in accordance with the Act. The Information Commissioner's contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
email : casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 01625 545745
Fax: 01625 524510

You should note, however, that the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted our internal complaints procedures before dealing with such an application. Further guidance may be found on the Information Commissioner's website <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Phillips