

Further to my email of 22 October 2015, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information of 20 October 2015 which was:

In 2010, the Wales Audit Office announced that it was taking preliminary steps towards investigating/auditing Carmarthenshire County Council's actions as the local planning authority.

It appears that no investigation subsequently took place and that representations were made to the Wales Audit Office by Mr Mark James CBE both in relation to the prospect of such an investigation/audit and regarding correspondence received by the Wales Audit Office that it received from Carmarthenshire residents following the announcement referred to above.

Please provide a copy of any and all communications that passed between the Wales Audit Office and Mr James during 2010/2011 relating to the proposed investigation/audit.

Please find attached the following items that meet the description of your request:

1. Letter from Ceri Stradling to Mark James dated 19 April 2010;
2. Email from Ceri Stradling to Mark James of 19 April 2010 at 13:50, email from Mark James to Ceri Stradling of 19 April 2010 at 14:39.

Item 1 has been redacted because the information falls within the personal information exemption provided by section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is an absolute exemption. The exemption applies because disclosure would breach the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please note that we do not hold correspondence that meets the description of your request for the period post 19 April 2010. This is because further discussions took place in meetings after that date rather than via written correspondence.

I should also mention that we hold some correspondence to and from Mr James relating to the subject matter of the request in the months prior to the beginning of the 2010-11 financial year.

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