



Date issued: 03 November 2016

Businesses receiving money from the Welsh Government

Further to my email of 17 October 2016, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information of 11 October 2016, which you clarified on 17 October 2016.

Your original request was:

Please give details of all businesses which have received financial support from the Welsh Government that are currently under review or investigation – or have been under review or investigation in the past five years.

Can you name each business and give the exact sum of Welsh Government money each business received.

If you cannot provide names of businesses owing to commercial sensitivity then please provide details of the number of businesses, including how much financial support they have collectively received.

Please also give detail of the reason as to why each business is under review or investigation.

Your request was clarified as follows:

My request relates to audit work the Auditor General, and his office, have carried out regarding the Welsh Government's provision of funds to businesses for the 2015-16 financial year, if you are unable to provide any information on the previous financial years.

We hold the following information from the 2015-16 financial year that meets the description of your request:

Company name – Old Bell 3

We received correspondence from an Assembly Member and that letter set out that Old Bell 3 had received the following amounts of Welsh Government (as confirmed in a written Assembly response from the First Minister) for the previous three financial years at the time of writing:

Exhibit 1: figure table

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
£567,129.30	£587,792.00	£686,693.70

The Assembly Member was concerned that the sums spent by the Welsh Government represented poor value for money. We do not hold any additional information regarding Welsh Government funding of Old Bell 3.

Company name – Ideoba

We received correspondence from an Assembly Member that raised concerns regarding the role of a Ministerial adviser in connection with potential funding for Ideoba. We hold information that the Welsh Government provided Ideoba with funding of £176,297. We do not hold recorded information as to whether that is the exact sum that Ideoba received in total.

We published the following reports in the 2015-16 financial year which are relevant to your request:

[Regeneration Investment Fund for Wales](#) – I have included this report regarding the Regeneration Investment Fund for Wales (RIFW), although please note that RIFW was a Limited Liability Partnership, registered with Companies House and effectively wholly-owned by the Welsh Government (see paragraph 2 of the report in particular).

[Welsh Government acquisition and ownership of Cardiff Airport](#) – the report includes information regarding financial support from the Welsh Government to Cardiff International Airport Ltd (see paragraphs 4 and 24 in particular).

[Establishment and oversight of the Wales Life Sciences Investment Fund](#) – the Welsh Government committed £50 million to the Wales Life Sciences Investment Fund and the report sets out payments made to the Fund Manager and of financial support given to ReNeuron plc (see Appendix 1 and pages 26-27 of the report in particular).

Please also see the following links for reports published in the current financial year to date that are relevant to your original request for information:

[The Welsh Government's funding of Kancoat Ltd](#) – paragraph 2 of the report sets out that Kancoat Ltd received Welsh Government funding totalling £3.4 million.

[Welsh Government investment in rail services and infrastructure](#) – the report includes details of monies paid to Network Rail for infrastructure (see Part 2 of the report in particular)

In addition, please find below links to published reports from previous financial years that are relevant to your original request for information:

[Public funding of the Cywain Centre, Bala](#) – see Appendix 1 in particular.

[Public Funding of Penmon Fish Farm](#) – see Appendix 1 in particular.

Collation of this response has taken approximately six hours work (collectively). There is therefore scope to do further collation before the 'appropriate limit' is reached – probably a further two financial years. Please let me know whether you would like further information to be collated, and, if so, please specify which years you would like. I should also explain that in many cases where our audit work examines the Welsh Government's provision of funds to businesses, such work will end up in a published report.

In responding to your request I have used the following definitions:

Definition of business – companies and other entities operating for profit.

Definition of financial support – excludes ordinary contractual transactions.

You may also be interested to know that the Auditor General has indicated to the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee that, following on from his recent report on the Welsh Government's funding of Kancoat Ltd, he is minded to undertake a broader value for money examination of the Welsh Government's support for business.

I have not applied any exemptions, however if you wish to complain about my handling of your request, please email me.

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

Kind regards