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R Lloyd

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Our Ref: 17 FOI 151

20 December 2017

Dear Mr Lloyd,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2017 to the Wales Office in which you requested the following information:

I would like to request a copy of special advisers diaries for September 1 until December 20 2017.

Could you also respond to the following requests:

Between September 1 and December 20, what official meetings or engagements did Wales Office Ministers hold in London? Which, if any Special Adviser, attended these meetings or engagements with Ministers?

Between September 1 and December 20, what official meetings or engagements did Wales Office Ministers hold in Cardiff? Which, if any Special Adviser, attended these meetings or engagements with Ministers?

Between September 1 and December 20, what official meetings or engagements did Wales Office Ministers hold in Wales? (other than in Cardiff). Which, if any Special Adviser, attended these meetings or engagements with Ministers?

Between September 1 and December 20, on what official business did Special Advisers accompany Wales Office Ministers to Wales?

What was the total cost to the Department of Special Advisers travel between September 1 and December 20 2017?

What was the total cost to the Department of special advisers rail travel between September 1 and December 20 2017?

Between July 1 and December 20 2017, on what official foreign engagements did special advisers accompany Ministers and at what cost to the Department?

Between July 1 and December 20 2017, what was the total cost to the Department of Special Advisers foreign and domestic travel in support of official Government or Ministerial business?

Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We will endeavour to respond to your request within the twenty-working day deadline provided by section 10(1) of the Act and no later than 24 January 2018.

The FOIA does provide a number of exemptions. A qualified exemption requires that before relying on it we must consider the public interest test. If the information you have requested is covered by a qualified exemption(s) under the FOIA, the Department is allowed to take longer than 20 working days to respond. This is because in such circumstances we are required to consider the public interest issues when deciding whether or not to disclose the information requested.

If more time is needed to consider the public interest issues under a qualified exemption(s), we will write to you and inform you of the revised date you can expect to receive a response to your request.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Williams'.

Mark Williams
Freedom of Information Team