**Date issued:** 7th of August 2023

**Freedom of Information Request** 125/23

We are writing in response to your Freedom of Information request. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our Data and Information Management Policy.

**YOU ASKED US…**

1. **Can you look into why and how Transport for Wales is sponsoring ITV Weather. Pride Cymru, women in transport, Tafwl, rugby union and many other sports and community groups. They also employ people on their organisation to look at and arrange sponsorship.**
2. **Can you please enquire as to how much money transport for wales has paid out on sponsorship including their sponsorship management team giving break downs for these costs on a year by year basis from April 2019 to and including this financial year.**

**RESPONSE**

Question 1

For the majority of Sponsorships, the reason why is not recorded.

In relation to Pride and ITV, both sponsorships are part of brand-building activities in relation to our remit as well as the achievement of our strategic equality plan / objectives for 2020 – 2024

* promoting travel by rail, bus and active travel (walking and cycling) in line with Transport for Wales’ remit to promote greater use of public transport and active travel.
* encouraging people to make more sustainable travel choices, use private cars less and play their part in reversing the impacts of climate change.
* promoting travel by rail, bus and active travel (walking and cycling) following the various Covid lockdowns, increasing ticket sales and revenues.

Tafwyl has a standard package of sponsorship opportunities (offered to us but also other organisations).

It aligns with:

* Welsh Language and Culture – the event is organised by Menter Iaith and supports/encourages use of the Welsh language. The event is free to the public and family friendly [https://mentrauiaith.cymru/en/mentrau-iaith-cymru/the-mentrau-iaith/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmentrauiaith.cymru%2Fen%2Fmentrau-iaith-cymru%2Fthe-mentrau-iaith%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7Ca223e591e93a43d7646308db821ac24f%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638246823666173568%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FdeTYgu9GG4ZXKp8SZhE0w3zqvD%2FVSV0x7jCg%2B6JYEY%3D&reserved=0)
* Sustainable transport – they monitor how people get to the event every year and encourage public transport/sustainability

There’s no contract, Transport for Wales are sponsoring the 2-day event.

*Continued…*

Question 2

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| Women in Transport |   |   | £9,000 |   |
| Ponty in the Park |   |   |   | £3,000 |
| Keep Wales Tidy |   |   | £1,800 |   |
| Confederation of British Industry | £4,800 | £7,200 | £14,400 | £10,200 |
| Pride Cardiff |   |   | £14,400 | £18,000 |
| Pride Swansea |   |   |   | £1,000 |
|  | £4,800 | £7,200 | £37,200 | £32,200 |

In relation to our ITV Cymru Wales weather sponsorship agreement, the following exemption applies

**S43(2) (Prejudice to Commercial Interests)** of the Freedom of Information Act (2000). This exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

The use of this exemption is subject to an assessment of the public interest in relation to the disclosure of the information concerned.

**Those arguments in favour of disclosure are:**

* Transparency in relation to commercial transactions – there is a clear public interest in ensuring that commercial transactions are undertaken on a competitive commercial basis.
* Disclosure of the requested information would help assure the public that the process has been completed properly.
* Promoting understanding of decisions – disclosure may promote understanding of the process and decision reached by TfW.

**Those arguments against disclosure are:**

* Release of the information in question has significant potential to impact upon the willingness of parties to deal with TfW in future. Even where parties do deal with TfW they may not be prepared to disclose certain information for concern that it may be disclosed. This would not be conducive to open and transparent negotiations and dealings between TfW and third parties. The public have an interest in TfW being able to conduct its affairs in an appropriate manner intrinsic to which is the requirement to achieve best value and efficiency. If parties were unwilling to deal with TfW this would distort contract or procurement negotiation processes and would be prejudicial to achieving best value and efficiency.
* ITV operates in a commercial environment. To release the information could prejudice ITV’s interests to participate competitively in a commercial activity when negotiating other sponsorship contracts.

Transport for Wales recognises the need for openness and transparency by public authorities, but in this instance as disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice Transport for Wales’ ability to obtain best value and ITV’s ability to commercially negotiate with other companies, it is considered that the public interest favours the use of the exemption.

We hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Transport for Wales**

**Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at either Transport for Wales, 3 Llys Cdwyn, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH or freedomofinformation@tfw.wales. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".