|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dear David Jones.**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) FOI 9293 – Outcome of Internal Review**Thank you for your Internal Review request dated 16/01/2023 regarding a Freedom of Information request.The purpose of an Internal Review is to assess how your Freedom of Information request was handled in the first instance and to determine whether the original decision given to you was correct. This is an independent review: I was not involved in the original decision. Your original request was submitted on the 22/11/2022 and the response was issued on the 15/02/2023. Your internal review request was received 16/01/2023 and stated:

|  |
| --- |
| ‘I would like to request an internal review as I have not received a reply to this FOI request within the 20 working day time limit, by law, the authority should normally have responded promptly and by 21 December 2022’ |

I have reviewed the timeframe taken to provide you with a response to your request, as set out within the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that in this instance, regrettably, we have not achieved the twenty working days response target.  As you will appreciate at the current time, Local Government is facing unprecedented challenges and resources have had to be prioritised in supporting the complex 2023-24 budget setting process, finalising the audit of the Council’s 2021-22 accounts and the implementation of a new IT system.  Furthermore, in recent months the finance service has faced short-term capacity pressures as a result of two vacant senior posts, which have now been addressed.However, unfortunately on this occasion we were unable to provide a timely response to you and I apologise for the delay that you encountered and any inconvenience that this may have caused.  This therefore concludes the Internal Review of your information request.  If you disagree with the outcome you should contact the Information Commissioner’s Office whose contact details are below:Information Commissioner’s Office – Wales2nd FloorChurchill HouseChurchill WayCardiffCF10 2HHEmail: wales@ico.org.ukYours sincerelyGareth EvansHead of Finance |