

08 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14347 – Additional Teacher Funding

Thank you for your request which I received on Thursday 24 September 2020 about the additional £29 million funding to recruit, recover and raise standards in schools in Wales in response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The information you requested is enclosed below.

- 1) *A list of all schools which have applied for additional funding from the Welsh Government under the scheme announced by the Education Minister on 8 July 2020 to “ensure schools and pupils have the support they need by recruiting extra staff”.*

Please can you include:

- *The name of the school*
- *The amount requested*
- *The school’s justification for the request*
- *The intended use of the additional funding by the school*
- *Whether the request was approved by the Welsh Government/Local Authority.*

No school has made an application for additional funding under the “Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: Accelerating Learning Programme” as the scheme does not operate on an application basis; rather the scheme has distributed the funding via a funding methodology linked to key priorities. In determining funding for the scheme, the Welsh Government has been clear that the priority was to ensure those most in need had access to support. The additional funding was allocated to schools via a grant to their local authority based on the following priority areas:

- Number of pupils in the school;
- Number of children eligible for free school meals;
- Number of BAME (black and minority ethnic) children in the school;
- Number of Gypsy Roma, Traveller children in the school; and
- Number of children in WM schools where Welsh is not spoken in the home.

I have attached the list of school allocations to this response which provides details of the funding received by each school for pre-16 learners.

The principles for use of the funding was published on the Welsh Government website, <https://gov.wales/recruit-recover-raise-standards-accelerating-learning-programme>

2) *An exhaustive list of approved intentions of the additional funding.*

Please see link to the principles for use of funding in question 1.

It is a matter for governing bodies to decide the staffing structure for schools. The Education Workforce Council (EWC) will support local authorities and governing bodies with promoting recruitment arrangements however, recruitment will remain the responsibility of Governing Bodies and Local Authorities to fully address local needs.

3) *Confirmation of whether the Welsh Government will be following up on additional funding awards to determine whether schools have used the funding in the use described*

Welsh Government has determined the monitoring requirements in the grant to Local Authorities. The grant offer requires Local Authorities and Regional Education Consortia to ensure that:

- schools set out what they intend to do with the resources in a simple and clear plan.
- This plan should indicate the number of pupils included and an outline of the curriculum and staffing solutions proposed.
- Where schools are working in collaborative partnerships or cluster arrangements a single plan will be acceptable
- In all cases the plans should be signed off by the school's Governing Body and details of the school's approach should be made available to parents and the wider community.

We are working closely with Local Authorities and Regional Education Consortia to understand how schools and LAs are deploying this additional capacity, the nature of the support they are creating and their progress in recruiting to roles and deploying capacity to support learners.

4) *Confirmation of when the Welsh Government intends to follow up on additional funding awards to determine whether schools have used the funding in the use described*

Welsh Government will continue monitoring progress throughout the period of funding, receiving data and intelligence from the Regional Education Consortia and Local Authorities; including termly monitoring reports on their plans in support of the programme.

5) *If already completed, a report of whether the additional funding has been used for its originally intended purpose by schools.*

The additional funding was made available at the start of the academic year 2020/21, no report is available.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely