



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 February 2021

Dear

ATISN 14784 – Cost of bilingualism

Thank you for your request, which I received on 21 January 2021. Your request asks for information on four aspects of the cost of bilingualism.

You have asked for information that relates to the Welsh Government, Welsh councils and other public bodies. To clarify, please note that we are only able to provide information in relation to the Welsh Government. We do not hold any information that relates to Welsh councils and / or other public bodies.

I have structured my response below in four separate sections to reflect the different elements of your request:

- 1. The amount of public money spent in 2020 by the Welsh Government, Welsh councils and other public bodies on providing correspondence IN WELSH to residents homes, eg the invitations to attend for a covid vaccine*

The Welsh language is mainstreamed into all Welsh Government policy areas – it is an intrinsic part of all that we do. It is therefore not possible to calculate the amount of money spent by the Welsh Government during 2020 in providing correspondence in Welsh to residential addresses as any such correspondence drafted by Welsh Government would be shared bilingually.

- 2. The amount of public money spent from 2015 - 2020 by the Welsh Government, Welsh councils and other public bodies on the development and amendment of IT systems to cater for the Welsh language*

The Welsh language is an integral part of everything that the Welsh Government does. Therefore, when it develops or amends its IT systems, the Welsh language is fundamental part of such projects. As opposed to creating separate Welsh language systems, they are developed bilingually and therefore there is no separate cost to create Welsh versions of IT systems.

- 3. The amount of public money spent in 2020 by the Welsh Government, Welsh councils and other public bodies on promoting the Welsh language*

All Welsh Ministers are expected to consider the Welsh language as part of their policy development work in line with the Welsh Language Standards, the Government of Wales Act 2006 and the Welsh language strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*. Some projects will concentrate wholly on the Welsh language and others will include reference to the language for example the *Parenting. Give it time* campaign. It is therefore impossible to calculate how much money in total was spent on promoting the language during 2020.

4. The amount of public money spent in 2020 by the Welsh Government, Welsh councils and other public bodies on producing road and pedestrian signs to include the Welsh language

All road and pedestrian signs created by the Welsh Government have been created bilingually for many years, in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and before that, in line with the Government's Welsh Language Scheme. It is therefore not possible to calculate the cost of ensuring that the Welsh language is included on all such signs, in comparison with English only signs.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

Next steps

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.

Yn gywir / Sincerely,