

27 October 2022

Dear

ATISN 16758 – Welsh Language

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 October 2022. You asked for:

1. Information on how many hours has been spent discussing specific Welsh language legislation in the chamber in the past 5 years, eg the promotion and expanding the use of the language?
2. Information on how much money has been spent directly by the Welsh Government on Welsh Language promotion expansion and strategic schemes in the past 5 years.
3. Information on how much money has been given to local councils and other organisations by the Welsh Government on Welsh Language promotion and strategic schemes in the past 5 years.
4. Information on what the total cost has been on promoting and incentives for the Welsh Language in the past 5 years.
5. Information on what the estimated total cost is of promoting and incentives on the Welsh Language in the next 5 years.

Our response

I have set out my response in the order you asked the questions:

Question 1. – Information on how many hours has been spent discussing specific Welsh language legislation in the chamber in the past 5 years, eg the promotion and expanding the use of the language?

As outlined in my acknowledgement letter of 19 October 2022, the information you requested is not held by Welsh Government. In that letter, I offered to transfer your request to the Senedd if you consented to us doing so. As I have not heard from you since this letter was issued, I have not forwarded your details. If you wish to raise the matter with the Senedd, you can do so by e-mailing them directly at information-request@senedd.wales

Question 2. – Information on how much money has been spent directly by the Welsh Government on Welsh Language promotion expansion and strategic schemes in the past 5 years.

In 2017, the Welsh Government set out its ambitions for the Welsh language in its Welsh language strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#). It has two main targets as follows:

- *The number of Welsh speakers to reach 1 million by 2050.*
- *The percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, to increase from 10 per cent (in 2013–15) to 20 per cent by 2050.*

Alongside this strategy, a [5-year work programme](#) was released outlining what the Welsh Government intended to do during 2017-2021 in order to deliver the strategy's policy objectives. This work programme is the first of several work programmes that will be published during the lifespan of the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy. The [second work programme](#) was published in July 2021 and covers 2021-2026.

The strategy and work programme detail the types of projects and Welsh language promotions focussed on during the past 5 years following the 3 main themes of *Cymraeg 2050*.

Broadly, the areas covered are:

Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

- Language transmission in the family
- The early years
- Statutory education
- Post-compulsory education
- The education workforce, resources and qualifications

Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh

- The workforce
- Services (to the public)
- Social use of Welsh

Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – Infrastructure and context

- Community and economy
- Culture and media
- Wales and the wider world
- Digital technology
- Linguistic infrastructure
- Language planning
- Evaluation and research

The delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* is mainstreamed into all Welsh Government policy areas – it is an intrinsic part of all that we do. All Ministers and departments undertake work to ensure that the strategy is successfully delivered from within their

own budgets. It is therefore not possible to calculate the exact amount of money spent by the Welsh Government on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*.

However, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language manages a budget to deliver projects and promotions to support *Cymraeg 2050*. As each of your questions relate to the amount spent on the Welsh language, I have compiled a table detailing the total spend of the Welsh language budget allocated in the Welsh Government's Supplementary Budgets¹ over the last 5 years, with a breakdown per financial year. These figures apply to questions 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Financial Year	Period covered	In-year Spend
2017-2018	1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018	£36,437,586.00
2018-2019	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019	£37,838,319.00
2019-2020	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020	£36,517,464.00
2020-2021	1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021	£37,518,868.00
2021-2022	1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022	£40,779,778.00

The total spend for the same period of 2017-2022 on “*Welsh Language promotion expansion incentives and strategic schemes*” was **£189,092,015**.

To place this figure into a wider context, the total Welsh language budget per annum equates to 0.2% of the overall Welsh Government resource and capital budget.

Question 3. – Information on how much money has been given to local councils and other organisations by the Welsh Government on Welsh Language promotion and strategic schemes in the past 5 years.

The Welsh Government grant funds a number of organisations to promote the Welsh language in the community in order to contribute to the *Cymraeg 2050* target of doubling the daily use of the language. The allocated budget for the Welsh language supports various activities across each of the 22 local authorities in Wales.

Some examples of the types of organisations and projects funded have been provided below:

Welsh for Kids / Cymraeg i Blant

Key partners: Mudiad Meithrin, National Centre for Learning Welsh, Flying Start officers and childcare providers across Wales.

We fund a national Cymraeg for Kids scheme to support parents to use Welsh with their children, and to choose Welsh-medium childcare and education. Through a series of free sessions for parents and their children, a network of officers support families to introduce and use Welsh at home, pass the Welsh language on to their children, and support children's linguistic, social and educational development. Cymraeg for Kids is seen as an important step on the journey towards Welsh-medium education, with many local authorities recognising the programme's contribution in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs).

¹ [Welsh Government budgets | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/welsh-government-budgets)

Welsh within the new curriculum

Key partners: Local education authorities in Wales, all schools in Wales, Qualifications Wales, parents and prospective parents.

Welsh is a part of the new curriculum's Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience. Welsh will continue to be a mandatory subject for all 3-16 year old learners, with flexibility for schools to decide the best way of ensuring the progression of learners.

Welsh Language Charter / Siarter Iaith

Key partners: The Urdd, regional education consortia, local authorities, schools.

The Welsh Language Charter and associated programmes (*Cymraeg Campus*, the Welsh Language Charter of secondary schools, and *Cymraeg Bob Dydd*) operate in our schools to increase language use among young people aged 3-18 years. We fund the Urdd to provide *Cymraeg Bob Dydd* to English-medium secondary schools. The other three schemes are delivered by the regional education consortia or individual counties.

Question 4. – Information on what the total cost has been on promoting and incentives for the Welsh Language in the past 5 years.

The Welsh Government's allocated budget to deliver *Cymraeg 2050* is outlined under Question 2.

Question 5. – Information on what the estimated total cost is of promoting and incentives on the Welsh Language in the next 5 years.

Before the summer recess of 2021, the Welsh Government published its [second work programme](#) to support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* for the term of this Senedd (2021-26). The work programme outlines what the Welsh Government intends to do during the next period in order to deliver the strategy's policy objectives.

While we can confirm we will be continuing with the implementation of the strategy and the commitments outlined in the work programme for 2021-2026 and in [the Programme for Government](#) and [the Co-operation Agreement](#) with Plaid Cymru, we are unable to comment on the budgets concerned.

The Welsh Government's Final Budget², published on 1 March 2022, sets out the Welsh Government's revenue and capital spending plans for [2022-23](#), together with indicative plans for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

We can confirm that we only have indicative budgets for 2023-24 and 2024-25. Funding implications for our Budget beyond 2024-25 will be determined as part of a

² [Final Budget 2022 to 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)

future UK Comprehensive Spending Review. The heightened expectations for inflation mean that we will see year on year real terms reductions in our Budget in both 2023-24 and 2024-25.

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.

Yours sincerely