

10 February 2022

Dear

ATISN 17052 – Books Council Wales

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 16 January 2023. You asked for:

1. How much money have Welsh Government bodies given to Books Council Wales over the past 10 years?
2. How many Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic women have been beneficiaries of Books Council Wales funding? Please provide a breakdown by race, for example "We have supported 100 BAME women authors since 2020"
3. How many Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people have been beneficiaries of Books Council Wales funding?
4. Please provide the strategic equality impact assessment for Books Council Wales' "New Audiences Fund"
5. How does the Welsh Government ensure that Books Council Wales adheres to the Public Sector Equality Duty relating to ethnicity and faith under the Equality Act 2010?
6. How does the Welsh Government ensure that Books Council Wales adheres to the Welsh Language Act 1993?
7. Please provide the Welsh government's strategic equality impact assessment for work in the creative industries that monitors equality, diversity, and inclusion at Books Council Wales
8. What % of the BAFTA Academy in Wales have been BAME since 2015?
9. How has the Welsh government monitored Books Council Wales on ethnicity and race?
10. What % of Books Council Wales has been GDPR trained?
11. How much money did Books Council Wales spend on anti-racism training?
12. How many BAME people did Medwin Hughes interview ahead of his report?
13. Has the Welsh government demarcated funding from the 2022-2023 financial year for a strategic review into the work of Creative Wales and Arts Council Wales?
14. How many Welsh language speakers have been awarded funding?
15. How many BAME Welsh language speakers have been awarded funding?
16. What proportion of Cyhoeddwy'r Cymru are BAME?
17. How much money does Cyhoeddwy'r Cymru receive year on year?
18. Please provide current the strategic equalities plan for Cyhoeddwy'r Cymru.
19. Please provide current the strategic equalities plan for Cyhoeddwy'r Cymru.
20. What % of Books Council Wales is Black?
21. What % of Books Council Wales is Asian or Mixed race?
22. What % of Books Council Wales is white?

23. Books Council Wales has been collating the data of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people without their consent under the term "ethnically diverse" when questioned by Sophie Howe on their remit relating to ethnicity and wellbeing. Is the term "ethnically diverse" a Welsh government term that has been used? What is the legal definition of "ethnically diverse"?
24. The BAME community has grown 4.7% in 20 years. What work has books council Wales done to ensure that they are organically growing audience development and author engagement amongst different communities as an organisation in receipt of public funding from the government, who is subject to the Equality Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Our response

1. How much money have Welsh Government bodies given to Books Council Wales over the past 10 years?

The Welsh Government has given the Books Council of Wales £47,574,299.70 over the past 10 years.

2. How many Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic women have been beneficiaries of Books Council Wales funding? Please provide a breakdown by race, for example "We have supported 100 BAME women authors since 2020"

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

3. How many Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people have been beneficiaries of Books Council Wales funding?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

4. Please provide the strategic equality impact assessment for Books Council Wales' "New Audiences Fund"

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. The New Audience Fund is a Books Council of Wales fund delivered by the Books Council of Wales.

5. How does the Welsh Government ensure that Books Council Wales adheres to the Public Sector Equality Duty relating to ethnicity and faith under the Equality Act 2010?

The WG does not hold this information. The Books Council of Wales is not a public body and therefore is not covered by the Public Sector Equality Duty.

6. How does the Welsh Government ensure that Books Council Wales adheres to the Welsh Language Act 1993?

The Welsh Books Council is named in Schedule 6 to the Welsh Language Standards (no.2) Regulations 2016. This authorizes the Welsh Language

Commissioner to issue them with a compliance notice to make them subject to Welsh language standards under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011. They were issued with a compliance notice in July 2016; it can be viewed here: [Compliance notices \(welshlanguagecommissioner.wales\)](https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales). Compliance with standards is monitored and enforced by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The requirement to comply with standards replaces any duties the body was under in relation to the 1993 Welsh Language Act.

7. Please provide the Welsh government's strategic equality impact assessment for work in the creative industries that monitors equality, diversity, and inclusion at Books Council Wales

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. The Welsh Government, as a public body, is required to publish a strategic equality plan as part of its Public Sector Equality Duty. The Welsh Government's strategic equality plan for the period 2020 to 2024 is available here:

[Equality plan and objectives: 2020 to 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

8. What % of the BAFTA Academy in Wales have been BAME since 2015?

You have retracted this question.

9. How has the Welsh government monitored Books Council Wales on ethnicity and race?

Quarterly arrangements as part of the agreed grant offer letter and operational plan.

10. What % of Books Council Wales has been GDPR trained?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

11. How much money did Books Council Wales spend on anti-racism training?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

12. How many BAME people did Medwin Hughes interview ahead of his report?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

13. Has the Welsh government demarcated funding from the 2022-2023 financial year for a strategic review into the work of Creative Wales and Arts Council Wales?

No

14. How many Welsh language speakers have been awarded funding?

We wrote to you to clarify whether this question relates to funding awarded by the Books Council of Wales. In the absence of this information, we have assumed this question relates to funding awarded by the Books Council of Wales. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

15. How many BAME Welsh language speakers have been awarded funding?

We wrote to you to clarify whether this question relates to funding awarded by the Books Council of Wales. In the absence of this information, we have assumed this question relates to funding awarded by the Books Council of Wales. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

16. What proportion of Cyhoeddwyr Cymru are BAME?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

17. How much money does Cyhoeddwyr Cymru receive year on year?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

18. Please provide current the strategic equalities plan for Cyhoeddwyr Cymru.

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

19. Please provide current the strategic equalities plan for Cyhoeddwyr Cymru.

This is a repeat of question 20

20. What % of Books Council Wales is Black?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

21. What % of Books Council Wales is Asian or Mixed race?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

22. What % of Books Council Wales is white?

The Welsh Government does not hold this information

23. Books Council Wales has been collating the data of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people without their consent under the term "ethnically diverse" when questioned by Sophie Howe on their remit relating to ethnicity and wellbeing. Is the term "ethnically diverse" a Welsh government term that has been used? What is the legal definition of "ethnically diverse"?

The term 'ethnically diverse' is not a Welsh Government term.

24. The BAME community has grown 4.7% in 20 years. What work has Books Council Wales done to ensure that they are organically growing audience

development and author engagement amongst different communities as an organisation in receipt of public funding from the government, who is subject to the Equality Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. The Books Council of Wales' published Strategic Plan sets out its priorities in relation to equality and diversity:

[Strategic-Plan-2022-2027-P.pdf \(llyfrau.cymru\)](#)

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