

23 February 2023

Dear

ATISN 17129 – schools in special measures

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 February 2023. You asked for details relating to the team of education experts appointed to help Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools, specifically when the team will be established; its composition and terms of reference; and whether the establishment of such a team is to become a permanent feature to support all schools in special measures. You also asked how many primary and secondary schools in Wales are in special measures or require significant improvement.

Our response

Local authorities have statutory responsibility for monitoring their schools and intervening where appropriate where they have concerns. I understand that Powys County Council has extended its secondary school improvement team to assist their secondary schools. The Welsh Government does not hold any information regarding when that team will be established, its composition or terms of reference. You may wish to contact Powys County Council for this information as this is an approach taken by Powys County Council to support their secondary schools.

The Welsh Government has issued statutory schools causing concern guidance which sets out the powers available to local authorities to intervene in schools causing concern, including those in special measures. A link to the guidance is attached for information [Schools causing concern: statutory guidance for schools and local authorities | GOV.WALES](#). The Welsh Government has also issued school improvement guidance which sets out a framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability to assist the delivery of sustainable school improvement. A link to the guidance is attached: [School improvement guidance: framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

In relation to your questions regarding the number of primary and secondary schools in special measures or require significant improvement, this information is exempt under s21 of the Freedom of Information Act (information accessible to applicant by other means). Current and up to date information about schools in special measures and requiring significant improvement is publicly available on Estyn's website [Welcome to Estyn | Estyn \(gov.wales\)](#).

Section 21 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

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