

4 May 2023

Dear

**ATISN 17365 – Information about progress on Welsh language elements of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.**

**Information requested.**

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 April. You asked for:

1. A report and/or any documents detailing the progress on the work by the Welsh Language Council's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Sub-Group on the action point "gain a better understanding of the c. 10000 Welsh Speakers from ethnic minority communities to inform future actions and interventions to eliminate racism in Wales." The strategy said that findings should be integrated into current and future policy and improved access to information on Welsh-medium education, language learning, workplace activities and community activities by March 2023.
2. The analysis of data on Black, Asian and Minority ethnic people that attend Welsh-medium education and an outline of local and national strategies developed to increase these numbers and tackle barriers to accessing Welsh medium education done by the Welsh Language Council's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Sub-Group, the WLGA and local authorities as set out by the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan to be completed by March 2023.

**Our response**

In response to your first request, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have concluded that the information you requested is not held by the Welsh Government. However, I trust that you will find the information below useful. I would also like to confirm that an annual review on the Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan will be published in due course.

1. The Welsh Language Partnership Council's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Sub-group has met several times and continues to be a valuable forum for gaining a better understanding of the lived experience of ethnic minority Welsh speakers.

In response to your second request, please find below the information held by the Welsh Government.

2. PLASC data tells us that the highest numbers of Black, Asian and minority ethnic learners within all our schools in Wales are in Cardiff and Newport, but also Swansea and the Vale of Glamorgan. PLASC (pupil level annual school census) data is broken down by ethnic background and can be viewed on a local authority and individual school level.

## [Ethnic background of pupils aged 5 or over by local authority \(gov.wales\)](#)

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans Regulations (Wales) 2019, require local authorities to set out in their plans (a) how the local authority will provide parents and guardians with information as to the availability and type of Welsh medium education provision on offer; (b) how it will provide parents and guardians with information stating that Welsh medium education is an option for persons regardless of their linguistic background; (c) how it will make best use of information regarding the benefits that bilingualism and multilingualism can bring. All 22 local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) have been approved and are operational since September 2022. These plans can be accessed via the following link : [Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2022 to 2032 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES.](#)

The majority of Local Authorities as part of the delivery of their WESP have established Welsh in education forums which comprise local authority officers as well as, but not confined to, senior school leaders, regional education consortia representatives as well as education and/or Welsh language stakeholders such as Mudiad Meithrin, the Urdd, Mentrau Iaith and RhAG. Most local authorities have established promotion and marketing sub-groups to develop strategies and targets for promoting Welsh medium education in their areas.

Local Authorities are under a statutory requirement to submit, at the end of July every year, an annual review report setting out progress made on their WESPs. As part of our continual monitoring of WESPs, the Welsh Government expects Local Authorities to include in their annual review reports the steps they are taking to engage with all parents/carers regarding opportunities to access Welsh medium education. Black, Asian and Minority ethnic people have been identified as a priority. These annual review reports can be accessed from the Local Authorities themselves.

### **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](mailto: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