

18 May 2023

Dear

ATISN 17449 - Long Covid

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 03 May 2023 relating to Long Covid care. You requested the following:

- The amount of money pledged by the government specifically for Long Covid care in Wales for 2023/24
By 'Long Covid care' you mean, money pledged specifically for treatment of, support for, or research into, Long Covid

Our Response

In March this year the Minister for Health and Social Services announced that the annual funding for Adferiad (Recovery) services would increase to £8.3 million.

This community based rehabilitation service will continue to support people with long COVID but it will also be expanded to people with other long term conditions whose rehabilitation and recovery are similar - for example, people with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia and other post-viral associated conditions.

Therefore we are unable to provide a breakdown of the specific amount pledged for long COVID care because of the change to the service model. However, anyone with long COVID will still have access to the support they need through the Adferiad (Recovery) programme.

Whilst there is no specific budget for long covid research within Welsh Government, the NHS in Wales receives £14.8m annually to support research which will include long covid studies are open to patients. In addition, Welsh researchers have access to NIHR research programmes and our own Health and Care Research Wales grant schemes of which long covid research applications can be received.

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,