



26 May 2023

Dear ,

ATISN 17518 - Basic Income Project

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 May 2023. You asked for:

1. The number of asylum seekers in receipt of basic income from the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot

Our response

I have determined that the information described in your question is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

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

Annex A - Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act:

- The number of asylum seekers in receipt of basic income from the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relates to information intended for future publication. The Welsh Government intends to publish enrolment data in September 2023, following the completion of the enrolment to the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot. This will expand upon the six months data published on 08 March 2023 with additional categories of information, including related to the matters highlighted in the request. As such, the Welsh Government believes that the requested information should be exempt from disclosure at this time.

Public Interest Test in relation to Section 22

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

There is a legitimate interest for the publication of data regarding participation in the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Welsh Government has already outlined that final data from the pilot year will be published in September 2023, following completion of the enrolment year to the pilot programme, therefore the information requested will be published in part. We have already published interim data, which we believe is sufficient at this time to allow the public to monitor the uptake onto the pilot. Disclosure of a further set of interim figures will not add anything significant to that which is already published.

Balance of public interest test

Welsh Government has decided to withhold publishing the requested information because of an imminent publication of the same information as part of a scheduled statistics publication in September 2023.