



27 July 2023

Dear ,

### **ATISN 18704 – Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot**

#### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 09 July 2023. You asked for:

1. How much money has the Welsh Government's basic income pilot cost?
2. Under the Welsh Government's basic income pilot, how many asylum seeker children have so far received the £1,600 a month salary?
3. Under the Welsh Government's basic income pilot, how many asylum seekers, who are currently in the UK, will be receiving the £1,600 a month salary? And when will they be receiving it?

#### **Our response**

In relation to question one, spend between 1 April 2022 and 30 June 2023 on the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot was £5.053m. The budget covers the cost of payments to individuals on the pilot as well as administration and evaluation costs and the costs of additional financial advice and support which is provided via the Single Advice Fund.

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

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 ([Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot statistics: August 2022 to January 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)) with additional categories of information, including related to the matters highlighted in your request.

It is in the wider public interest to wait for the final report as that will contain data that has been checked rather than publish unfinished, incomplete, data that may differ significantly from the final figures that will appear in the report on the pilot. Disclosure of such incomplete, and unchecked data could lead to misunderstandings and a loss of trust in the final report.

### **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

## **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:

- Under the Welsh Government's basic income pilot, how many asylum seeker children have so far received the £1,600 a month salary?
- Under the Welsh Government's basic income pilot, how many asylum seekers, who are currently in the UK, will be receiving the £1,600 a month salary? And when will they be receiving it?

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.