

Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ref: ATISN 18752

1 August 2023

Dear ,

ATISN 18752 – Children in Care

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 21 July 2023. You have requested the following:

From the period 2017 to 2022:

- 1. How many children were taken into the care of the social services in Wales during this period?*
- 2. How many children received an injury whilst in the care of social services in Wales during this period?*
- 3. How many children went missing whilst in care of social services in Wales during this period?*
- 4. Do the social services in Wales register children taken at birth?*
- 5. Do the social services in Wales have power of attorney over a living man or woman?*
- 6. Given that the Welsh Government is a corporation, does that mean that social services in Wales are to?*
- 7. Do social services in Wales have an anti-bribery licence?*
- 8. How many children have died whilst in the care of social services in Wales during this period*

Our Response

1. Number of children starting care during this time period – 9,375

-This excludes children looked after exclusively under a series of short term breaks). Where a child had multiple periods of care during the time period (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2022), only their first episode has been counted in the total.

2. This data is not held by the Welsh Government.

3. Number of children going missing during this time period - 95

This excludes children looked after exclusively under a series of short term breaks Where a child went missing more than once during the time period (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2022) only their first missing episode has been counted in the total.

4. Local authorities in Wales record all children and young people who become looked after and this includes children who become looked after at birth

5. Welsh Government does not hold this information

6. Welsh Government does not hold this information

7. Welsh government does not hold this information

8. Number of children who have died during this time period – 19

This excludes children looked after exclusively under a series of short term breaks.

-Further information on children looked after in Wales can be accessed through the website below:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services>

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,