

22 January 2025

Dear

ATISN 23239

Thank you for your request which I received on 8 January 2025. You asked for the following information:

Since 2010 I would like to know the following:

- *The population in Wales in 2010*
- *The current population in Wales*
- *The number of acute NHS beds in 2010*
- *The current number of acute NHS beds*
- *The number of community/non acute NHS beds in 2010*
- *The current number of community/non acute NHS beds*
- *The number of social care beds in 2010*
- *The current number of social care beds*

Our response

The mid-year population estimate for Wales in 2010 was 3,049,971 and the mid-year estimate for 2023, the latest year for which figures are available, was 3,164,404. Population estimates are published on the StatsWales website at the following address: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/nationallevelpopulationestimates-by-year-age-ukcountry>

NHS beds data are available for financial years from 2009-10. In 2010-11 there were an average of 12,149 NHS hospital beds in Wales. These were comprised of 7,998 acute beds (surgical acute, medical acute and 'other' acute) and 4,628 non-acute beds. In 2023-24 there were an average of 10,447 NHS hospital beds in Wales. These were comprised of 7,113 acute beds and 3,768 non-acute beds. Note that the long-term strategy for healthcare in Wales is to provide care closer to home by increasing community and GP services, meaning reduced demand for hospital beds over time. Advances in healthcare technology have also resulted in shorter lengths of stay and more day surgery. NHS beds data are published on the StatsWales website at the following address:

[NHS beds by specialty and year, 2009-10 onwards](https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/NHS-Beds/nhsbeds-by-specialty)
<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/NHS-Beds/nhsbeds-by-specialty>

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) is responsible for collecting data on regulated social care services in Wales. Data are collected for the number of registered places in care home settings, but not specifically for the number of occupied or available beds. In March 2011, the earliest period for which published data are available, there were 27,218 places provided by adult and children's care homes in Wales. In March 2024 there were 26,350 places. If you require more information about these figures you may wish to contact CIW

directly (CIWinformation@gov.wales). These data are published on the StatsWales website at the following address:
<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Services-for-Social-Care-and-Childrens-Day-Care/care-services-and-places-regulated-by-the-care-inspectorate-wales/cssiwservicesandplaces-by-setting-year>

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 e-mail: 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely