

23 July 2025

Dear

ATISN 24769

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 June. You asked for the following:

- a) A list of external advisory groups to the Welsh Government, as of 21 May 2024
- b) A list of external advisory groups to the Welsh Government, as of 21 May 2025
- c) A copy of Welsh Government guidance on external advisory groups.

Our response

In our acknowledgement letter sent to you on 17 June 2025, it was confirmed that your request had been interpreted as follows:

External Advisory Groups as those which are not statutory (such as the Advisory Panel to the Welsh Language Commissioner, set up in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) as out of scope as their existence is already in the public domain (in the text of the legislation). On the same basis, I would exclude statutory consultees.

An External Advisory Group would have a majority of members from outside Welsh Government and at least one-third from outside the public sector, so a group made up of local authority or NHS employees would not be an 'external' group. To be an advisory group to the Welsh Government, then the Welsh Government would set the terms of reference, appoint the membership and convene the meetings.

As no correction to the interpretation was received, we have progressed as set out, please see the accompanying disclosure document.

You also asked for a copy of Welsh Government guidance on external advisory groups. We do not have specific guidance on setting up an external advisory group.

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 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

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