

19 August 2025

Dear

**ATISN 24991 – Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) - FOI**

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 July 2025. You asked for:

1. Information on how the DAF was spent, in the financial year 2022-23 – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025;
2. What was the total spend on the DAF in 2024/25?
3. A breakdown of the DAF spend amongst Welsh local authorities.
4. How many DAF applications were received during 2024/25 for EAP and IAP.
5. How many DAF applications were successful during 2024/25 for EAP and IAP.
6. How much was spent by the DAF on provision of furniture/white goods during 2024/25.
7. What percentage of the DAF spend for furniture/white goods was cash, vouchers and provision of the item itself.
8. What is the DAF budget for 2025/26?
9. Was any of the UKG Housing Support Fund made available to Welsh Government (WG) via the Barnett Consequential used to bolster the DAF?
10. What did Wales use the UKG Housing Support Fund funding made available to WG through the Barnett Consequential for?
11. What does the new UKG Crisis and Resilience Fund mean for Wales? What impact will it have on the ability to support vulnerable households?

**Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

1. The Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) is a fund of last resort for those experiencing financial crisis and with no other means of support. The DAF offers two types of support. Individual Assistance Payments (IAPs) provides essential household goods to help people live independently in their home or a property that they are moving into. Emergency Assistance Payments (EAPs) provide small emergency cash payments to help pay for essential costs, such as food, gas, electricity, clothing or emergency travel. For the EAP element, an individual is eligible for 3 payments in a 12-month rolling period (with a 7-day gap between applications). In the 2022/23 financial year, EAP eligible payments increased to 5 in a 12-month rolling period, this was in recognition of the financial impact of Covid-19 and the loss of the £20 Universal Credit uplift. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, EAP eligible payments reverted back to 3 payments in a 12-month rolling period.
2. For the 2024/25 financial year, DAF spend totalled £24,112,000.
3. This information is available from Stats Wales- [Discretionary Assistance Fund by Local authority - Monthly data \(April 2023 Onwards\)](#). To note this data is

the number of approved applications, applications may have been cancelled by the applicant at a later date.

4. In 2024/25 the DAF received 378,423 applications. Of these, 364,146 were for EAPs and 14277 for IAPs.
5. This information is available from Stats Wales- [Discretionary Assistance Fund by Local authority - Monthly data \(April 2023 Onwards\)](#)
6. In 2024/25 £4,017,657.61 was spent on providing furniture and white goods. To note this data is the number of approved applicants, applications may have been cancelled by the applicant at a later date.
7. The DAF does not provide cash or vouchers for the purchase of furniture/white goods. Where an application for furniture/white goods has been approved, the item itself is delivered to the applicant.
8. The DAF budget for 2025/26 is £39.5million.
9. Barnett formula consequentials the Welsh Government receives are added to the overall block grant. They are not earmarked for any specific programmes. It is for Welsh Ministers to decide how to allocate the overall resources available across devolved spending programmes. Allocations to the DAF are made as part of the overall budgetary process.
10. As per answer for question 9.
11. We understand the new Crisis and Resilience Fund will be introduced in England from 1 April 2026. We will continue to engage with the UK Government as they set out the detail of how it will operate and to understand any changes to the Barnett Consequential.

## **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