

Dear

ATISN 26301 – DBS Checks for Carers

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 26 October 2025 regarding the safeguarding of adults.

You requested the following:

- 1. The total number of carers (including paid, unpaid, voluntary, or family carers) currently approved, commissioned, or accepted by Adult Services departments in each Welsh local authority under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.*
- 2. Of these, the number of carers who do not have a completed Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check recorded.*
- 3. Any available county-by-county comparison or summary statistics showing DBS compliance rates across Wales.*
- 4. Any internal policy, inspection, or monitoring reports (since 2020) that refer to how local authorities are expected to ensure DBS checks are completed before carers are approved to provide care.*
- 5. Any communications or circulars issued by Welsh Government or CIW clarifying whether the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 affects the requirement for DBS checks.*

Our Response

1. The Welsh Government does not hold all the information requested, some data is held on approved carers and carer assessments which is available on the Welsh Government data dashboards here: [Measuring social services activity and performance: performance improvement framework 2024 to 2025 | GOV.WALES](#). Welsh local authorities may hold this information, contact details are here: [Find your local authority | GOV.WALES](#)
2. The Welsh Government does not hold the information requested, you may wish to contact Social Care Wales: [Contact us | Social Care Wales](#) and DBS: [DBS Freedom of Information requests - GOV.UK](#) for this information.
3. See response to point 2.
4. See point 2.
5. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 reinforce the need for all registered workers to have the right skills, abilities, training and clearances to work with the vulnerable in our communities; and require that they maintain these skills and work within a Code of Practice to ensure that they adhere to the standards expected of them.

SCW has a dedicated webpage for the training of the workforce on the expectations set out by these Acts - <https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/information-and-learning-hub> and they are expected to have a knowledge of this legislation and how it affects their roles. All regulated and paid care workers are required to register with SCW within 6 months of starting their caring role, and this includes having the necessary DBS checks as part of the registration process. It is for employers to ensure that their workers have what they need to start work and register with the regulator. This is set out in statutory guidance – <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-03/guidance-for-care-home-and-domiciliary-suppliers-2024.pdf> - which governs all regulated social care services in Wales and overseen by CIW.

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,