

19 March 2026

Dear

ATISN 26746 – Governance Monitoring and Escalation Criteria (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Thank you for your request which I received on 22 February.

You have asked for the following recorded information for the period **1 January 2023 to present** relating to governance oversight and monitoring of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. This is to include:

1. Any risk assessments, risk ratings, concern logs, intervention trackers, or monitoring frameworks used to assess the governance, capacity, or performance of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
2. Any documents which define or describe the thresholds, criteria, or triggers that would lead officials to:
 - escalate concerns internally,
 - consider statutory intervention,
 - recommend ministerial involvement,
 - increase monitoring or supervision of the authority.
3. Any records showing whether Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has met or exceeded any escalation thresholds or concern categories during this period, including summaries or status indicators (for example: RAG ratings, assurance levels, risk bands or equivalent classifications).
4. Any internal guidance, policies, or procedural documents used by Welsh Government officials when deciding whether a local authority requires enhanced monitoring, support arrangements, or potential intervention.
5. Any periodic review summaries, assurance reports, or governance health assessments produced about the authority (final versions only).

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

The performance and governance of local authorities is governed by the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#). The new performance and governance regime set out in the Act is a fundamental component of this, firmly defining principal councils as self-improving organisations through a system based on self-assessment and panel performance assessment. Information regarding the application of this regime can be found in the statutory guidance document, [Performance and governance of local authorities: statutory guidance | GOV.WALES](#). Routine support for each principal council will be provided by the Welsh Local Government

Association. On that basis, it should not be assumed that the Welsh Government regularly and externally assesses the performance and risks of each principal council for potential support and intervention.

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