

16 April 2026

Dear

ATISN 26864 – Independent Reviewing Officer

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 02 April 2026 relating to the statutory framework governing the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) function in Wales.

You requested the following information to be provided:

1. *Copies of any statutory guidance, codes of practice, or official guidance documents issued by the Welsh Government that relate to the role, function, or duties of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)*
2. *Any guidance or framework documents relating to:*
 - *the oversight and governance of the IRO function dispute resolution or escalation by IROs monitoring of local authority performance in relation to looked after children*
3. *Any documents describing expectations placed on local authorities regarding:*
 - *the independence of the IRO function recording, reporting, or auditing of IRO challenge or oversight activity*
4. *If no single consolidated document equivalent to the “IRO Handbook” used in England exists, please confirm this explicitly and identify the documents in which the relevant duties and expectations are set out*

It is noted that you are not requesting case-level data or the creation of new information.

Our Response

Presented below are links to copies of relevant guidance and legislation pertaining to the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer in Wales:

[Guidance, Reviewing and monitoring of a child or young person’s Part 6 Care and Support Plan](#)

[Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014 \(Sections 99-102\)](#)

[The Care, Planning, Placement and Case Review \(Wales\) Regulations 2015 \(Parts 6 and 8\)](#)

[Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice \(Chapter 4\)](#)

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,