

Dear

ATISN 26940 – NHS Wales health board investigation

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 5 May 2026.

You requested the following:

1. Escalation status records

Any records held by Welsh Government of the escalation or intervention status of each Local Health Board between October 2009 and the most recent available recorded information (preferably up to December 2024).

Where available, please include:

- *dates on which escalation or intervention status was applied, changed, or removed;*
- *the level or category of escalation applied, including any changes in framework or designation over time.*

2. Documentation relating to escalation decisions

Any ministerial submissions, briefing papers, or formal documentation produced within the same period which set out the reasons for placing a Health Board into escalation or changing its escalation status.

3. External support and intervention costs

Any data held on expenditure by Welsh Government on external management consultants, advisers, or interim executives engaged in relation to Health Board support or intervention between 2009–10 and the most recent available financial year (preferably up to 2023–24).

Where possible, please provide:

- *total expenditure by financial year;*
- *and, where recorded, any allocation by Health Board.*

Our Response

1. The [oversight and intervention framework](#) sets out how performance is reviewed and risk is assessed across the NHS including guidance on how we identify and respond to serious concerns in the NHS. It was first published in 2014 and most recently updated in 2025.

The current escalation status of NHS organisations in Wales can be found on the Welsh Government website - [NHS Wales escalation and intervention arrangements | GOV.WALES](#). On this webpage, you can also find links to the organisation specific escalation frameworks which set out the reasons for escalation and also include a brief summary of their escalation history. There are also some statements on previous escalation and intervention arrangements within the current government term which can be found at [Announcements | GOV.WALES](#).

Where possible, we have included a link to the published information.

2. We can confirm that Welsh Government holds some of the information that is captured in your request. However, from my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your requests.

The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

To provide you with the information it would require searches of our electronic filing system to identify relevant documents and manually review to consider whether they are wholly or partially within scope of your request and extract relevant information spanning a 16 year time period of 2009-2025.

As part of our preliminary assessment a search was undertaken of appropriate briefings within a smaller timeframe to determine how long it would take to consider the full request. It was estimated it would take over approximately 140 hours to identify the relevant information and extract it.

Therefore, the estimated calculation to gather the information for your request is as follows:

Calculation:

Documents Located: Average of 35 documents a year x 16 years = 560 documents

Average time take to review document = 15 minutes X 560 = 8,400 divide by 60 = 140 hours

Consequently, after considering the regulations and applying the timescales for review, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

You may wish to refine your requests by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain and include any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. It may help you to refine any future requests if you were to consider what it is you are looking for. Are there any specific questions you want an answer to? Is there any specific piece of information you are looking for? What is it you want to understand?

If you can identify what it is you are looking for, then ask for that information. By doing this, it would make it easier for our policy teams to identify what you are looking for and to provide a more focused response.

If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response.

We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information

relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

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,