

02 June 2026

Dear

ATISN 26941 - Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Compliance Costs and Outcomes

Thank you for your request, which was received on 4 May. Please see below our response to each of the questions in your request.

1. Compliance cost assessments

Any assessment, estimate, briefing paper, or analysis held by Welsh Government which seeks to quantify the resource cost to public bodies of complying with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including costs associated with:

- *well-being objective setting, reporting, and review processes;*
- *dedicated staffing or team costs, where these have been estimated;*
- *any other direct compliance costs identified in the material held.*

For context and to clarify what we mean by legal compliance with the Act, I have included some background information below:

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) (henceforth 'the Act') places legal requirements on 56 public bodies, including Welsh Government. The overarching legal duty within the Act is for public bodies to carry out sustainable development. This is defined as 'improving economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being', to be done in accordance with the [sustainable development principle](#) and through the 5 'ways of working'.

Each public body must also set, publish and take all reasonable steps to meet their well-being objectives, designed to maximise the organisation's contribution to the national 7 well-being goals. Other requirements include reporting annually on organisation's progress against their objectives, taking account of [statutory guidance](#) and participating in [Public Service Boards](#) (PSBs).

Welsh Government must additionally publish a [future trends report](#) every 5 years.

The [Auditor General for Wales](#) (AGW) and [Future Generations Commissioner](#) (FGC) also play a statutory role created in the Act, providing scrutiny and advice respectively.

Compliance for the Act within Welsh Government and other public bodies is mainstreamed within the decision making, assurance and review of policies and project delivery. As such, it is impossible to disaggregate all costs associated with

compliance with the Act, such as distinguishing the time officials from across the organisations may work on the Act. Nonetheless, a regulatory impact assessment of the costs of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill can be found in the explanatory memorandum for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, which details the initial cost calculations (pages 79 and 80).

[Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Bill: explanatory memorandum | GOV.WALES](#)

The Sustainable Development team within Welsh Government includes 7.8 full time equivalent staff working on delivery, implementation and promotion of the Act. This includes roles directly related to compliance with the Act. There is currently one Deputy Director, two Grade 7's, four Senior Executive Officers and two Executive Officers.

This team manages the relationship with the Future Generations Commissioner and Public Services Boards, as well as internal compliance and governance of the Act such as updating guidance, government business and the production of the Future Trends Report.

It should be noted that not all the work that this team does directly relates to compliance with the Act. Their work also includes promotion and governance of sustainable development that goes beyond statutory duties. Total costs for the team therefore do not represent the costs for the time spent solely on the activities you have requested information for.

The office of the FGC is primarily funded by Welsh Government, with a resource grant for Financial Year 2025/ 2026 of £1.744m. This is the funding that enables the FGC to fulfil their statutory duty and does not necessarily cover all funding that the FGC receives, including from Welsh Government. Further information can be found in the Welsh Government Final Budget (within the Main Expenditure Group Allocation Section) by following this link: [Final Budget 2026 to 2027 | GOV.WALES](#). Final budgets for earlier years are also available on the Welsh Government website. Likewise you may find the Financial Statements section of the FGC's Annual report useful.

PSBs are also primarily funded by Welsh Government through a Regional Support Grant, amounting to £500,000 in financial year 25/26. This grant is intended to support PSBs in meeting their statutory duties under the Act, including well-being planning, reporting, stakeholder engagement, and partnership coordination.

While the Regional Support Grant contributes to these activities, the majority of costs - objective setting, reporting and review processes, staffing - are absorbed within the core budgets of individual public bodies. Any detailed assessment of these costs would therefore sit locally with the relevant organisations rather than being centrally collated or analysed by Welsh Government.

In June 2024 regulations were passed requiring 8 additional bodies to comply with the Act, impact costs of which can be found within this explanatory memorandum:

[Explanatory Memorandum to The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(Public Bodies\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#)

You may also find it useful to review the evidence submitted by Welsh Government to the Equalities and Social Justice Committee in 2025, particularly Chapter 7 on Value for Money and Enforcement: [Evidence paper.pdf](#)

2. Outcomes and health benefit assessments

Any assessment commissioned by or produced for Welsh Government which has attempted to quantify the population health benefits, or any other measurable outcomes, attributable to activities undertaken in compliance with the Act.

Welsh Government does not hold an assessment that attempts to quantify the population health benefits, or any other measurable outcomes, attributable to activities undertaken in compliance with the Act. This is because compliance with the Act is mainstreamed across public sector activities and disaggregating the impact of the Act on population health benefits is unrealistic, although benefits may be covered in wider reviews and evaluations at individual programme level.

3. Confirmation of absence

If no quantified assessment of compliance costs or measurable outcomes is held (i.e. as per item 1 and 2), please confirm this explicitly.

Welsh Government does not hold a complete calculation of the total costs of compliance of the Act, either for public bodies as a whole, or for Welsh Government activities. As per previous explanation, compliance with the Act has been mainstreamed across public sector activities, making complete disaggregation unrealistic.

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