

15 June 2026

Dear

ATISN 26978 – Student finance

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 May 2026. You asked for:

Documents held by the Welsh Government including policy information, guidance, eligibility criteria in relation to students aged between 18 and 25 applying for higher education student support as ‘independent’ students and also ‘estranged’ students and associated impact assessments specifically in relation to academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Our response

Academic Year 2005/06

Higher education student support policies were governed by the UK Government in academic year (AY) 2005/06. The Welsh Government does not hold any information relating to AY 2005/06.

The legislation for AY 2005/06 can be accessed here: [The Education \(Student Support\) Regulations 2005](#).

You may be able to obtain further information relating to AY 2005/06 by contacting [the UK Government's Freedom of Information Requests](#).

Academic Year 2006/07

Responsibility for setting higher education student support policies was devolved to the Welsh Government with effect from academic year (AY) 2006/07.

Underpinning legislation for AY 2006/07 can be accessed here: [The Assembly Learning Grants and Loans \(Higher Education\) \(Wales\) 2006](#) (“2006 Regulations”). Schedule 4 of the 2006 Regulations provides the criteria for determining whether a student can be assessed as an ‘independent’ student.

Policy guidance was not accessible via Welsh Government’s website during the early years of devolution. At that point in time, guidance was still published on the Department for Education of the UK Government’s website although the information appears to no longer be available.

Between academic years 2006/07 and 2013/14, the Welsh local authorities were responsible for assessing applications for higher education student support and determining eligibility and entitlement in line with the 2006 Regulations and

associated policy guidance and any such application records will no longer be available.

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