

17 June 2026

Dear

ATISN 27005 – School lockdown procedures and incidents

Information requested

Thank you for your request, which I received on 21 May 2026.

You asked for information relating to school lockdown procedures and incidents, specifically:

- Copies of any Welsh Government guidance, advice or policy issued to schools since January 2022 relating to lockdown procedures or security incidents
- Whether the Welsh Government requires schools to have lockdown procedures and whether it recommends or requires lockdown drills
- Whether the Welsh Government holds data on the number of school lockdown incidents across Wales, and if so, the figures for recent academic years

Our response

The Welsh Government has published guidance which sets out expectations for schools in relation to emergency planning, safeguarding and keeping learners safe. This includes *Emergency planning and response guidance for education and childcare settings* and *Keeping Learners Safe*. These documents outline the principles schools should follow when planning for a range of incidents,

including security-related incidents where measures such as restricting movement (for example, a lockdown) may be appropriate. Schools are expected to develop and maintain their own detailed emergency plans based on this guidance and their local circumstances.

For clarity, in response to your specific questions:

- **Does the Welsh Government require schools to have lockdown procedures?**

The Welsh Government does not prescribe a specific requirement for standalone lockdown procedures in national guidance. However, schools are expected to have appropriate emergency plans in place, based on Welsh Government guidance and local circumstances.

- **Does the Welsh Government recommend or require lockdown drills?** Welsh Government guidance does not prescribe or require lockdown drills.

- The detail of emergency planning arrangements, including any drills or exercises, is for schools and local authorities to determine locally.
- **Does the Welsh Government hold data on school lockdown incidents?** We hold some limited high-level information on instances where schools have entered lockdown. This information may be based on a range of sources, including reports from local authorities, media coverage and other sources. Based on this information, we are aware of 7 incidents affecting 10 schools in the academic year 2024/25 and 5 incidents affecting 7 schools in the academic year 2025/26 to date.

Local authorities are not required by law to inform us of these instances, the information we hold is not collected for statistical purposes and has not been subject to the same level of quality assurance as official statistics. It should therefore be interpreted with caution. This information is compiled for internal management purposes. The Welsh Government does not publish official statistics on school lockdown incidents.

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