

18 June 2026

Dear

ATISN 27011- Recorded costs of ALN consultation, engagement, research and evaluation activity

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 May 2026. You asked for:

Details of contracted out services that have been used to inform the formation of ALN Legislation and ALN Implementation and Evaluation. You asked for this information to be broken down into the following categories.

1. Title or description of the activity
2. Date or financial year
3. Welsh Government policy area, division or team responsible.
4. Whether the activity was a consultation, engagement exercise, research project, evaluation, review, commissioned analysis, stakeholder exercise or similar
5. Total recorded cost, where held
6. External contractor, consultant or supplier costs
7. Name of external contractor, consultant or supplier, where disclosure is not exempt
8. Facilitation, workshop or event costs
9. Venue costs
10. Travel or subsistence costs
11. Translation costs
12. Accessible-format production costs
13. Analysis, evaluation or report-writing costs
14. Publication or communications costs
15. staff costs, where these are recorded or allocated to the activity
16. Relevant procurement reference, purchase order value, contract value or grant value, where held
17. Link to any published consultation, summary of responses, research report, evaluation report, review report or related output

You stated that if we discovered that this request would take us longer than the time and cost limit (three days or £600), you would accept a response that covered the following headings:

1. External contractor, consultant, supplier, procurement, contract, purchase order or grant values for ALN-related consultation, engagement, research, review and evaluation activity
2. Total recorded cost where already held
3. Translation cost
4. Accessible format cost
5. Publication cost
6. Facilitation cost
7. Venue or event costs where separately recorded
8. Staff costs only where readily recorded or allocated to the activity

You specified a wide-ranging area of contracts to examine and these included, but were not limited to:

1. Consultation and engagement relating to implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
2. Consultation and engagement relating to the ALN Code
3. Consultation, engagement or analysis relating to ALN system reform or implementation
4. The evaluation of the Additional Learning Needs system, including scoping, survey, parent/carer, practitioner/professional and local area study outputs
5. Consultation or engagement relating to data to monitor the Additional Learning Needs system
6. Review or engagement activity relating to the ALN legislative framework
7. Research, analysis or stakeholder engagement where ALN is a substantive focus

In addition, you requested that, if possible, this information would be set out in an Excel Worksheet.

Our response

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 request in either form. 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 that you have requested would considerably exceed this time/cost limit. This work requires accessing historic records, examination of tenders and resulting contracts issued to determine the level of detail you have stated you need. Preliminary work on the reduced, second option showed the required number of hours to fulfil the detail of your request would measure in excess of 72 hours or £1800. This figure was deduced from a sample of 12 hours work which satisfied approximately 18% of the scope of your second option. The time required could be considerably more for older contracts, moreover, we may not have recorded the detail that you require even in the considerably reduced second option. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested in either form.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly want to obtain, including any dates or time range relevant to the information required. You may find that the [Sell2Wales website](#), that lies within the public domain, will provide you with limited information – contractors' names, the scope of work and estimated costs. Potentially, we may be able to provide you with limited additional information. If you do decide to refine your request to elicit more information than this website offers, this will be treated as a new request.

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,