

15 June 2026

Dear

### **ATISN 27086 – Maternity Services**

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 11 June 2026 relating to Maternity and Neonatal services. You requested the following:

*To provide all maternity and neonatal assessments, investigations, reviews, oversight documents, and related correspondence held by Welsh Government between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2024, including but not limited to:*

- 1. National reviews of maternity or neonatal services.*
- 2. Ministerial briefings relating to maternity safety, investigations, risks, concerns, or performance issues.*
- 3. Correspondence between Welsh Government and Health Boards regarding maternity service concerns, risks, performance, investigations, or required improvements.*
- 4. Reports commissioned by Welsh Government relating to maternity or neonatal care (including external reviews, expert reports, thematic reviews, and governance reviews).*
- 5. Internal assessments, summaries, analyses, or evaluations of maternity or neonatal service performance across Wales.*
- 6. Documents relating to the commissioning, development, methodology, or findings of the All-Wales Maternity and Neonatal Assessment.*
- 7. Any unpublished reports relating to maternity or neonatal safety, governance, risk, or service quality.*
- 8. Any maternity-related investigations or assessments conducted jointly with Health Boards, HIW, PHW, or external bodies.*

*In addition, please provide:*

- 9. The total financial cost incurred by Welsh Government for each assessment, investigation, review, report, or commissioned piece of work listed above, including:*
  - Fees paid to external reviewers, consultants, or organisations*
  - Commissioning costs*
  - Consultancy or expert fees*
  - Internal staffing costs (if recorded)*
  - Administrative, operational, or project costs*
  - Any other associated expenditure*

***To provide all maternity and neonatal inspection materials, investigations, assessments, reviews, reports, and related correspondence held by Health***

***Inspectorate Wales between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2024, including but not limited to:***

- 1. Inspection reports (published and unpublished) relating to maternity or neonatal services.***
- 2. Follow-up inspections, monitoring reports, and progress assessments.***
- 3. Internal risk assessments relating to maternity or neonatal safety, staffing, governance, or culture.***
- 4. Enforcement notices, improvement requirements, or regulatory actions issued to Health Boards.***
- 5. Correspondence between HIW and Health Boards regarding maternity concerns, risks, performance issues, or required improvements.***
- 6. Internal notes, summaries, or analyses relating to maternity or neonatal service performance, safety concerns, or emerging risks.***
- 7. Any thematic reviews, special reviews, or targeted inspections relating to maternity or neonatal care.***
- 8. Any joint assessments or investigations conducted with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, or Health Boards.***

***In addition, please provide:***

- 9. The full financial cost incurred by HIW for each inspection, follow-up inspection, investigation, assessment, review, or report listed above, including:***
  - Fees for external reviewers, consultants, or expert advisers***
  - Commissioning costs***
  - Operational costs***
  - Staffing costs (if recorded)***
  - Travel, site visit, accommodation, or logistical costs***
  - Administrative or project-management costs***
  - Any other associated expenditure***

**We note that you have submitted a separate request to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW). Due to the similarities between the requests, this response addresses both requests collectively.**

### **Our Response**

We can confirm that Welsh Government holds information that is captured by 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 request. 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.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require searches of our electronic filing system. Our initial searches of electronic files has identified at least 16,583 documents of various sizes and complexity that may relate to your request. Each of these documents would need to be manually reviewed to consider whether they are wholly or partially within scope of your request. If each review takes at least 20 seconds, this would take approximately 92 hours.

Following considering the regulations and applying the timescales for review, we have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested as it exceeds the appropriate limit as set out in the regulations.

Your request is asking for information spanning 10 years and may wish to refine your request by being more specific about the time frame and what specific information you particularly wish to obtain – this should include any dates or specific period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

With regards to the following aspects of the request to HIW:

1. **Inspection reports** (published and unpublished) relating to maternity or neonatal services.
2. **Follow-up inspections**, monitoring reports, and progress assessments.

This information is exempt from disclosure under **Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information accessible to the applicant by other means)**. This is because all HIW inspection and follow-up reports are publicly available on their website at this link: [Find an Inspection Report](#)

## 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](mailto: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,