

14 May 2026

Dear

**ATISN – 26898 - Development Process for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)
Statutory Guidance**

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 April 2026. You asked for:

Information regarding the development of the Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) statutory guidance.

1. Please provide details of the commissioning process used for the development of the Religion, Values & Ethics (RVE) guidance, including any tendering, procurement or appointment arrangements.
2. What measures or safeguards were put in place during the commissioning and development process to identify, manage and mitigate any actual or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Please explain how the additional experts involved in the Co construction of the RVE guidance were identified and selected, including any selection criteria or appointment processes used.
4. Please provide details of any payments made for the authorship or development of the RVE guidance, including any
 - (a) the total amount paid
 - (b) the recipient(s) of these payments
 - (c) the basis on which these payments were made (e.g., contracts, grants, consultancy fees)

Our response

With regard to the information requested under point 4, from our preliminary assessment we estimate that it would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to fully answer your request. The appropriate limit for central government is £600, which equates to 24 hours of work to determine whether the information is held and to locate, retrieve and extract it.

To provide the information requested would require extensive searches of historic financial and programme records across multiple years, including detailed retrieval, review and analysis of relevant data. Following an initial assessment of records covering the period 2018–2021, we consider that responding to this element of your request alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

This reflects a number of factors, including the level of detail requested across three financial years, the need for detailed file searches, and the complexity of identifying costs specifically attributable to RVE within wider curriculum development work. In practice, this would require a line-by-line review of expenditure and supplier data, with cross-checking against source records to isolate relevant costs. Based on

comparable work, we estimate that this activity would take between 3 and 5 working days to complete (approximately £780–£1,290), exceeding the statutory limit.

For this reason, we are unable to provide this part of the information requested and are refusing point 4 under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, under our duty to provide advice and assistance, we would note that some high-level information is available. For example, certain RVE group travel and subsistence costs were reimbursed, and school engagement activity was supported through Pioneer School funding mechanisms. Identifying a complete and accurate total, together with the level of detail requested, would require more extensive analysis of historic records and would exceed the cost limit.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required.

If you do choose to refine your request, this will be treated as a new request.

With regard to the other information, you requested, I have included the following links.

[Written Statement - Announcement of Pioneer Schools \(5 November 2015\) | GOV.WALES](#)
[A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life](#)

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