

Dear

ATISN 27088: Request for Information – Schools/childcare settings lockdown

Thank you for your request which we received on 11/06/2026.

Information requested

You asked for:

- The number of temporary closures ('lockdown' incidents) of early years childcare and play settings, independent residential schools and further education institutions that are registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) for the academic years 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 (or latest available).

You further clarified that by 'temporary closures' or 'lockdown incidents' you are specifically referring to security-related incidents where a setting was required to restrict movement, close, or enter a lockdown procedure in response to a perceived or actual threat. To include, but not limited to:

- Situations involving intruders or unauthorised persons
- Police incidents or advice to lock down (e.g. nearby criminal activity)
- Threats to safety, such as weapons incidents or serious safeguarding risks
- Any incident where a setting implemented a formal lockdown procedure to protect children, staff, or residents

Our response

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Providers of Childcare & Play services are required to notify CIW of any significant event which is likely to affect the welfare of a child at the service. These notifications can cover a broad range of events. There is no specific notification category to record and identify whether a significant event relates to the matters described within your request, meaning we are unable to report on the data you requested.

However, we have been able to identify through a keyword search of the content of notifications submitted to CIW, those where the content refers to the service instigating lockdown procedures, for any reasons described within your request. This may not capture every instance that could fall within the scope of your request, if different terminology was used, however, we consider we have made reasonable efforts to identify the information requested as far as is practical.

The data on the numbers of notifications we have identified where the service instigated lockdown procedures, including where this was as a precautionary measure, for any reasons described in your request, is as follows:

Academic year (1 September to 31 August)	Number of notifications submitted to CIW by childcare & play services where the service had instigated lockdown procedures
2022-2023	3
2023-2024	5
2024-2025	5

Independent residential schools and further education colleges are inspected by CIW, but they are not registered with us. As such, they are not required to notify us of incidents or events such as those described within your request. CIW do not therefore collect or hold the data requested in respect of independent residential schools and further education colleges.

We have also established the requested information in respect of independent residential schools and further education colleges is not collected or held by any other areas of Welsh Government. Welsh Government did however provide some information in relation to lockdown incidents in schools within a response to a recent request for information, which can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.wales/atishn27005>.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with our 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