

Dear

ATISN 27130 FOI Request

Thank you for your request which I received on 23 June 2026.

Information requested

1. Funding and Budget
 - a. Details of how the scheme is funded, including the source of funding and the relevant budget line(s).
 - b. The total amount of public money allocated to the scheme since its inception.
 - c. The amount of money spent under the scheme in each financial year since its inception.
 - d. Any projected future funding allocations for the scheme.
2. Staffing and Administrative Costs
 - a. The number of Welsh Government staff currently assigned to administer, manage, monitor, or otherwise support the scheme.
 - b. The job title and grade of each such staff member.
 - c. The annual salary, salary band, or pay scale associated with each role.
 - d. The total staffing cost attributable to the scheme in each financial year since its inception.
3. Staff Time
 - a. The total number of staff hours devoted to the scheme in each financial year since its inception.
 - b. If exact records are not held, any estimates, workload assessments, or recorded Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) allocations relating to staff work on the scheme.
 - c. Any documents, reports, or business cases that quantify staff resource requirements for the scheme.
4. Scheme Administration
 - a. The number of applications received under the scheme in each year.
 - b. The number of successful recipients in each year.
 - c. The total amount paid to recipients in each year.
 - d. Any internal evaluations, reviews, impact assessments, or reports concerning the effectiveness, value for money, or administration of the scheme.

Where salary information cannot be disclosed for individual employees due to personal data considerations, I request that salary bands, pay grades, or equivalent remuneration ranges be provided instead.

Our Response

Some of the information you requested is enclosed.

- 1.a. The scheme is funded from within the Welsh Government's Education Directorate budget. The specific budget line used supports the work of the School Practitioner Division.
- 1.b. This is a demand-led scheme. Initial, indicative allocations for each registration year of the scheme are arrived at in advance of the start of each scheme year, by modelling estimated potential uptake. Where eventual uptake is lower than the indicative allocation, funding is re-distributed. The total amount of funding initially allocated to each scheme registration year, from its inception in 2022-23 to 2026-27 (commencing September 2026) is £1,625,000
- 1.c. This information is being withheld because in combination with information in this response and publicly available could identify registrants on this scheme. As such, the release of this information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f) (UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle (Article 5 (a) of the UK GDPR). It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

The amount spent by scheme registration year can be found at 4.c.

- 1.d. Funding has already been allocated to support the continuation of the scheme during the 2026/27 academic year. This has been included in the answer to 1.b.

No decisions have yet been made regarding funding allocations beyond the 2026/27 academic year. Future funding will be subject to Welsh Government review, ministerial decisions and budget-setting processes.

2.a, 2.b, 2.c.

We are withholding information regarding the number of officials, their job grades, pay bands and salaries. As release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f) (UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle (Article 5 (a) of the UK GDPR). It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

2.d. & 3.a.

We understand that you are asking for the Welsh Government staff costs attributable and hours devoted to the administration of this scheme. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. Staff administer this scheme alongside, and in combination with, two other similar schemes. Information on the administration costs or hours spent administering these schemes is not held, and if it were, the information for one scheme could not be easily disaggregated from the total for the three schemes.

3.b & 3.c.

We understand that you are asking for this information in relation to Welsh Government staff working on this scheme. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

- 4.a. Enquiries from students regarding their eligibility for the scheme are, in most cases, dealt with initially by their Initial Teacher Education (ITE) provider. Students who are assessed by their ITE provider as meeting the eligibility criteria may then submit an application to the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government does not hold information on the number of students who enquire about their eligibility for the scheme. The Welsh Government only holds information on the number of applications received.

The figures below represent the number of applications received for each scheme year. They do not represent the number of individuals registered on the scheme. Whilst the majority of applicants are subsequently registered, a small number of applications across the lifetime of the scheme have been assessed as ineligible and therefore did not result in registration.

The number of applications received under the scheme is:

2022–2023 (the scheme's first year): 42

2023–2024: 61

2024–2025: 43

2025–2026: 90

- 4.b Individuals registered on the scheme may receive up to two instalment payments. The first instalment is paid upon achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) at the end of their Initial Teacher Education programme. The second instalment is paid upon successful completion of their induction period in a maintained school in Wales.

The figures below are provided by scheme registration year. Recipients of the induction instalment are a subset of those who received the QTS instalment; therefore, the figures for the two instalments should not be added together.

2022–2023: 36 individuals from this cohort received the QTS instalment. Of those 36 individuals, 18 have subsequently received the induction instalment.

2023–2024: 52 individuals from this cohort received the QTS instalment. Of those 52 individuals, 21 have subsequently received the induction instalment.

2024–2025: 33 individuals from this cohort received the QTS instalment. No induction instalments have yet been paid for this cohort, as claims for this instalment are not expected until later in the year.

2025–2026: so far, 33 individuals from this cohort received the QTS instalment. Due to the current stage of the academic year, not all claims for the first QTS instalment have yet been made.

- 4.c. Individuals registered on the scheme may receive up to two instalment payments: a first instalment upon achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a second instalment upon successful completion of their induction period in a maintained school in Wales.

The total amount paid to scheme recipients, by scheme registration year, is as follows:

2022–2023: £135,000

2023–2024: £182,500

2024–2025: £82,500

2025–2026: £82,500*

*Due to the current stage of the academic year, not all claims for the first QTS instalment for the 2025-2026 registration year have yet been made.

- 4.d We understand that you are asking for any internal evaluations, reviews, impact assessments, or reports that look back at the effectiveness, value for money, or administration of the scheme. The scheme was introduced in 2022 and has therefore been in operation for a relatively short period of time. As a result, it is currently too early to undertake a meaningful assessment of the scheme's longer-term effectiveness, value for money or administration. A review of the scheme to support its implementation is undertaken annually and we attach the review for AY2026/27. Note that, part of this review is being withheld because it contains details about applicants to the scheme. The release of this information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f) (UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle (Article 5 (a) of the UK GDPR). It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

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