Our Ref: 27168
Date: 30 July 2026

Dear ,

**ATISN 27168- Freedom of Information (FOI) request for itemised Main Expenditure Lines (2025/26 and 2026/27)**

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 July 2026.

Your request was made up of two parts.

1. You asked for detailed and itemised information on Welsh Government spending for the financial year 2025/26 relating to Offender Learning, Constitutional Reform, Justice Transformation, Senedd Reform, Criminal Justice Delivery, Border Controls, and Community Support and Safety.

2. You also asked for a detailed and itemised breakdown for projected spending or allocated spending for the financial year 2026/27.

**Our response**

The attached list provides the detailed breakdown of the spend for 2025/26 for the Main Expenditure Lines requested.

| **Constitutional Reform** | **£** |
|---|---|
| Staff Costs | 719,889.72 |
| Travel and Subsistence | 1,400.85 |
| Other administrative costs | 4,606.48 |
| Innovating Democracy Advisory Group - fees | 15,138.61 |
| Innovating Democracy Advisory Group - Travel and Subsistence | 4,258.27 |
| Innovating Democracy Advisory Group - Meeting costs | 3,689.32 |
| Innovating Democracy Advisory Group - Report and engagement | 3,614.20 |
| Crown Estate Expert Panel Travel and Subsistence | 1,682.66 |
| Senedd reform research | 71,629.40 |
| Justice Research Programme | 60,000.00 |
| Research projects | 20,102.30 |
| Staff costs for Welsh Government posts engaged in policy devolution (devolution of justice, railways, and Crown Estate) and intergovernmental relations | 359,839.28 |

| **Borders** | **£** |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| Staff costs | 1,041,736.00 |
| Parc Cybi, Holyhead Border Control Post | 15,623,068.00 |
| Pembrokeshire Border Control Posts | 53,638.00 |

| **Criminal Justice Delivery** | **£** |
|---|---|
| Translation | 480.00 |
| HMPPS in Wales/Women's Justice in Wales Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) | 36,000.00 |
| Integrated Offender Management Cymru Analyst | 12,227.95 |
| North Wales and Dyfed Powys: Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach (Including Visiting Mums) | 256,497.94 |
| Staff Costs | 57,326.35 |
| South Wales and Gwent: Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach (Including Visiting Mums) | 471,767.42 |
| Criminal Justice Board Wales Coordinator | 9,000.00 |
| Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) for Welsh Women in Custody | 91,000.00 |
| Safer Wales | 139,570.66 |
| Wales Safer Communities Network | 88,000.00 |
| Youth Justice Board | 100,345.74 |
| Greater Change Pilot | 9,000.00 |
| Youth Justice - Hillside Funding | 328,141.00 |

| **Justice Transformation** | **£** |
|---|---|
| Staff costs | 359,765.00 |
| Travel and Subsistence | 2,113.70 |
| Other administrative costs | 1,091.40 |
| Academic Advisory Group (facilitated by Wales Centre for Crime and Social Justice) | 5,999.27 |
| Actuarial advice | 19,987.65 |
| Legal Costs | 14,337.00 |
| Contribution to Senior Salaries Review Body - Major Review of Judicial Salary Structure | 12,864.48 |

| **Offender Learning** | **£** |
|---|---|
| HMPPS SW PRISONS | 3,828,000.00 |
| HMP PARC YOI | 3,738,083.00 |
| HMP BERWYN | 3,974,826.16 |

| **Senedd Reform** | **£** |
|---|---|
| Staff Costs | 1,582,012.00 |
| Travel and Subsistence | 235.00 |
| Other administrative costs | 1,528.00 |
| Legal Costs | 3,375.00 |

In terms of the allocated funding for 2026/27, I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information falling within the scope of this request. However, I have concluded that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”). Section 35(1)(a) provides that information held by a government department or by the Welsh Government is exempt information if it relates to the formulation or development of government policy. An explanation of the application of this exemption, and the associated public interest test, is set out below.

**Engagement of Exemptions**

Section 35(1)(a) is a qualified exemption. It is engaged where the information relates to the formulation or development of government policy. Where the exemption is engaged, we must then consider whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

In this case, the information requested relates to live policy development work. The figures are not final allocations, but form part of the financial information being considered in the context of developing spending plans and assessing competing priorities across policy areas. The information therefore relates directly to the formulation and development of government policy for the purposes of section 35(1)(a).

**Public interest arguments in favour of release**

There is a clear public interest in disclosure of information about projected public expenditure. Disclosure would promote transparency around the management of public funds and would allow the public to better understand how resources may be directed across policy areas. It would also assist scrutiny of whether emerging spending plans align with stated government priorities and would support informed public debate on matters of significant public importance.

**Public interest arguments in favour of withholding**

The public interest in withholding the information is particularly strong because the request has been received at an early stage in the financial year, while the requested figures form part of an ongoing policy development process. While indicative allocations have been set out at Main Expenditure Group, policy direction, spending priorities and the evidence informing allocations are still being developed, and the figures remain provisional and subject to Ministerial consideration and change as decisions are taken on competing priorities. The scope for change is therefore material, and disclosure now would provide a premature and potentially misleading picture of the likely final position.

Disclosure at this point would reveal emerging financial assumptions and potential spending positions before they have been finalised. This would risk turning provisional working figures into public benchmarks against which final budget decisions may be judged. That, in turn, could create external pressure around policy choices that are still under consideration and could make it more difficult for Ministers and officials to revise and challenge options freely as part of the normal policy development process.

We have considered whether the risks associated with disclosure could be mitigated by making clear that the figures are provisional and should not be treated as final allocations. However, we do not consider that such caveats would remove the harm identified. The concern is not limited to the possibility that the figures may be misunderstood. Even if clear caveats were provided, disclosure under the Act is disclosure to the world at large. Once released, the figures could be used selectively or treated as indicative of likely final allocations, notwithstanding any warning that they are provisional.

Premature disclosure would, therefore, risk distorting the ongoing decision making process by exposing working assumptions and emerging positions before Ministers have completed their consideration of the relevant trade-offs. There is also a public interest in preserving a protected space for Ministers and officials to consider financial options while decisions remain live.

As policy direction is finalised and funding decisions become settled later in the financial year, more definitive information can be provided without the same risk of constraining Ministerial consideration.

**Conclusion**

I recognise the strong public interest in openness and transparency around public expenditure, particularly where the information concerns policy areas of public importance. We publish a large amount of information relating to the budget annually. However, in this case, I consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. The request has been received at an early stage in the financial year, while policy direction, spending priorities and allocations remain under active consideration. Disclosure before decisions have been finalised would expose provisional assumptions and emerging spending positions in a way that would distort or constrain that process. It would also establish indicative figures as assumed minimums or negotiating baselines, creating pressure around emerging allocations, undermining ongoing policy development and limiting Ministers' ability to consider and revise the full range of options. More definitive information can be provided as policy direction is finalised and funding decisions become settled. Accordingly, the information requested is withheld under section 35(1)(a) of the Act.

**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