



Ref: ATISN 27188

4 August 2026

Dear ,

ATISN 27188 – Carers

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 07 July 2026, relating to support for unpaid parent carers of children, young people and adults with disabilities and/or Additional Learning Needs in Wales.

You requested the following information:

National Data

1. *What national data does the Welsh Government collect relating to parent carers, including but not limited to:*
 - *Number of parent carers*
 - *Carers assessments completed*
 - *Waiting times for carers assessments*
 - *Waiting times for respite or short-break services*
 - *Number of parent carers receiving respite*
 - *Number of requests for respite*
 - *Number of requests refused*
 - *Unmet need for respite services*
 - *Parent carer wellbeing outcomes*
 - *Carer burnout or caring breakdown*
2. *If any of the above data is not collected, please confirm this.*

Monitoring Local Authorities

3. *What information are local authorities required to submit to the Welsh Government regarding:*
 - *Parent carers*
 - *Carers assessments*
 - *Respite or short-break services*
 - *Transition from children to adult services.*
4. *Please provide copies of any data collection templates, performance frameworks or guidance issued to local authorities relating to these matters.*

Parent Carer Wellbeing

5. *Does the Welsh Government routinely monitor the wellbeing of parent carers as part of evaluating the effectiveness of social care services?*

6. *If yes, please provide:*
- The measures used.*
 - The most recent national findings.*
 - Any reports or analyses produced.*
7. *If no, please confirm that no national monitoring of parent carer wellbeing is undertaken.*

Respite Services

8. *What national standards or expectations has the Welsh Government issued regarding:*
- Access to respite*
 - Waiting times*
 - Eligibility*
 - Frequency or amount of respite provided*
9. *Has the Welsh Government undertaken any review since 2020 into access to respite or short-break services for parent carers?*
- If yes, please provide copies of reports, reviews or recommendations.*

Transition to Adult Services

10. *What monitoring does the Welsh Government undertake regarding continuity of respite and support when disabled young people transition from children to adult services?*
11. *Please provide any guidance issued to local authorities relating to maintaining support during transition.*

Funding

12. *Please provide details of Welsh Government funding allocated specifically for:*
- Respite services.*
 - Short-break services.*
 - Parent carer support.*

Please provide annual figures for the last five financial years.

Has any funding been ring-fenced specifically for respite or parent carer wellbeing?

If yes, please provide details.

Policy Development

14. *Please provide copies of:*
- Any reviews, evaluations or impact assessments relating to parent carers undertaken since 2020.*
 - Any policy papers considering a national entitlement to respite or short-break services.*
 - Any ministerial submissions, briefing papers or advice prepared regarding respite provision or parent carer wellbeing, where disclosure is permitted under the Freedom of Information Act.*

Our Response

In addition to data that local authorities are required to report to the Welsh Government, local authorities hold their own data and qualitative information which they use to ensure services are designed and delivered to best support people using services.

Under section 14 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, local authorities and Local Health Boards must jointly produce and publish a Population Needs Assessment (PNA), which provides an evidence-based assessment of the care and support needs of the population, including unpaid carers, and is used to inform regional planning, commissioning, service development and investment decisions. PNAs are the foundation for Regional Partnership Board planning, commissioning and the development of Area Plans and other strategic decisions about health and social care services.

National Data

1. The following data is collected by the Welsh Government
Carers assessments completed. We publish the overall numbers of:
 - Contacts to statutory social services by adult carers or professionals contacting the service on their behalf, during the year. See [Carers in social services | StatsWales](#)
 - New carers' assessments completed [Carers in social services | StatsWales](#)
2. The following data is not collected by the Welsh Government:
 - Number of parent carers
 - Waiting times for carers assessments
 - Waiting times for respite or short-break services
 - Number of parent carers receiving respite
 - Number of requests for respite
 - Number of requests refused
 - Unmet need for respite services
 - Parent carer wellbeing outcomes. The Welsh Government does not hold information on the wellbeing outcomes for parent-carers specifically. The [National Survey for Wales](#) reports wellbeing outcomes for individuals receiving care and support, or support as carers, from local authority social services.
 - Carer burnout or caring breakdown

Monitoring Local Authorities

3. Local authorities provide data to the Welsh Government as part of the:
 - Adults Receiving Care and Support census
 - Children Receiving Care and Support census
 - Children Looked After Census
 - Performance and Improvement Framework metrics

Links to data collection templates and guidance documents are included at 4. below

- **Parent carers** - The Welsh Government does not receive data on unpaid carers that is broken down by caring relationship, including parent carers.

- **Carers Assessments** - We publish the number of carers with a support plan as well as the total number of new carers' assessments completed and the outcomes of these assessments [Carers in social services | StatsWales](#).
- **Respite or short breaks services** – We publish the number of adults receiving care and support whose support involves short breaks or respite care as part of the [Adults receiving care and support on 31 March by place of residence, type of care and support and age group. | StatsWales](#)

We require Regional Partnership Boards to report twice a year (mid-year and end of year) on short breaks they have delivered through the Welsh Government Short Breaks Fund. The template for this report and guidance is attached.

- **Transition from child to adult services** - The Welsh Government does not currently undertake specific national monitoring of continuity of respite services for disabled young people transitioning from children to adult services. Responsibility for assessing needs, planning transitions and ensuring continuity of care and support rests with local authorities and relevant NHS bodies under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

We do not collect information on the transition between child and adult services. Within the Children Receiving Care and Support census, we record the reason a child is no longer receiving care and support. This includes transition to adult services. This data has been collected from 2023-24 onwards when the collection was amended and became a full-year collection. It is intended that following the quality assurance process and the dataset becoming finalised, this information will be published by the end of 2026.

4. Regional Partnership Board Reporting template for the Welsh Government Short Breaks Scheme and Scheme Guidance document are attached (Doc 6 and Doc 7).

Please use the following links to access the related guidance documents and data submission templates:

- [Data collection templates and guidance documents](#) for Adults Receiving Care and Support Census, Children Receiving Care and Support Census, and Children Looked after Census.
- [Guidance documents for Performance Improvement Framework](#) metrics
- [Data collection templates](#) for Social Services Performance Improvement Framework metrics

Parent Carer Wellbeing

5. We do not routinely monitor of parent-carer specific well-being. The Welsh Government monitors the well-being of all people receiving care and support and support as carers as part of the National Survey for Wales. [National Survey for Wales | GOV.WALES](#).

Care Inspectorate Wales considers the experiences and outcomes of unpaid carers, including those with a parenting role, as part of evaluating how effectively LAs are meeting their statutory duties. It does this through inspection, assurance and oversight activity.

6. N/A
7. We confirm no specific national monitoring of parent carer wellbeing is undertaken.

Respite Services

8. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 outlines the duties on local authorities to undertake carers' needs assessments (s24), determine eligibility for support (s32) and meet carers' support needs (s40). The Codes of Practice on Assessing Care and Support Needs of Individuals and Meeting People's Care and Support Needs are also relevant.
9. The Welsh Government has funded the Short Breaks Scheme since 2022. An independent evaluation of the Short Breaks Scheme was included in the funding arrangement with Carers Trust Wales for 2022-25. The research was conducted by reserachers from Bangor University. The summary of that report is available on the Carers Trust Wales website: [sb-evaluation-22-25-summary-of-quant-findings.pdf](#). The full report will be published shortly and will be available from this Carers Trust Wales webpage: [Short Breaks Scheme 2023-29 - Carers Trust](#).

Care Inspectorate Wales met with Directors of Social Services/Heads of Adult Services in April-June 2026 as part of their routine assurance activity and produced a thematic analysis of local authority support services for carers following from this. This includes information on respite and is attached at Doc 8. This document is unpublished.

Transition to Adult Services

10. There is no national monitoring regarding respite and support when disabled young people transition from children to adult services.

Care Inspectorate Wales published a national review of early help, care and support and transition for disabled children in Wales in November 2021: '[Let me flourish](#)'
11. [The Transition and Handover Guidance February 2022](#) provides guidance for healthcare services on the management, handover and accountability of services for children and young people as they move from children to adult services. While primarily for healthcare services, the guidance promotes a whole-system approach and sets out expectations for collaboration between health boards, children's and adult social care, education, advocacy and safeguarding services. It reinforces the responsibilities of partner organisations under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Funding

Details of the Welsh Government funding is as follows:

- **Respite** – Local authorities receive funding from the Welsh Government via the Revenue Support Grant and non-domestic rates. In 2026-27, local authorities will receive £5.56 billion from the Welsh Government in core Revenue Support Grant and non-domestic rates to spend on delivering key services. It is the responsibility of local authorities to allocate use of this funding according to local priorities and their statutory responsibilities, including in relation to their social care responsibilities. There is no Welsh Government controlled allocation within this grant for social services, or respite.
- **Short Breaks services** - The Welsh Government Short Breaks Fund was established in 2022. The overall funding to date is £16 million, comprising:

2022-23 - £2 million
 2023-24 - £3.5 million
 2024-25 - £3.5 million
 2025-26 - £3.5 million
 2026-27 - £3.5 million

The scheme is delivered by Carers Trust Wales and Regional Partnership Boards. The annual £3.5million provides £2.2million to be managed by Carers Trust Wales and £1.3million distributed to Regional Partnership Boards for them to deliver locally.

- **Parent carer support** - The Welsh Government, under the Sustainable Social Services grant scheme, has supported the Family Fund's Take A Break Wales scheme with funding of £360,000 each year for the last five financial years.

In addition, the Welsh Government provides £147 million annually to Regional Partnership Boards (2022-27) via the Regional Integration Fund. Of this, 5% must be used to provide support services for carers (£7.35million). There is no further specification as to what types of carers services this funding should be used for, this is the responsibility of the Regional Partnership Boards to ensure funding responds to local need, determined by their Population Needs Assessment.

13. There is £1million of ring-fenced funding for Health Boards to provide carers support services within hospitals. This is funding that has recurred over the last 5 years.

Policy Development

14. Four Ministerial Advice documents and an integrated impact assessment relating to the development and continuation of the Welsh Government Short Breaks Fund are attached.

We have concluded that some of the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act. An explanation of our application of this exemption is set out at **Annex 1** of this letter.

We have also concluded that some information provided in *Doc 3 – MA DB 2482 25 Continuation of funding SBF CSF* is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 – Commercial sensitive. An explanation of our application of this exemption is set out at **Annex 2** of this letter.

The Welsh Government commissioned Carers Trust Wales to work with Bangor and Swansea Universities to produce a report setting out a vision for short breaks in Wales. The report was published in August 2021: [carers-trust-road-to-respite-report.pdf](#)

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,

Annex 1

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

I have decided to withhold the following information:

Section 40(2) – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act

Section 40(2) together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b) provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

‘Personal data’ is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (‘the DPA 2018’) and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.

We have concluded that, in this instance, the information requested contains third party personal data.

Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

“Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject”

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the FOIA is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

“Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child”.

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test: -

- **The Legitimate interest test:** Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information.
- **The Necessity test:** Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question.
- **The Balancing test:** Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate interests

Your request for documents that fall into scope of your requests includes some personal data. We have not identified any legitimate interest that you may have in knowing the identities of those individuals named.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

We do not believe disclosure of the identities of those involved would allow any greater understanding of the documents being disclosed.

3. The balance between legitimate interests and the data subject's interests or fundamental rights and freedoms

As we do not believe disclosure of this personal data is necessary, there is no requirement on us to undertake a test to balance the legitimate interests against the right of individuals, as the fundamental rights and freedoms provided by the DPA are not being challenged.

Annex 2

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Section 43(2) is a public interest exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it. The information you have requested includes commercially sensitive information, disclosure of which may impact on that organisation's ability to compete, generate income, negotiate contracts, attract funding, or otherwise operate effectively in a commercial environment.

Public interest arguments in favour of release

Release of this information would provide information on the funding arrangements and staffing structure of a third sector organisation, which is in receipt of Welsh government grant funding.

We recognise that there is a general public interest in the disclosure of information, as greater transparency makes Welsh Government and decision making more open and accountable.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

There is a public interest in ensuring that the commercial interests of external companies are not damaged or undermined by disclosure of information which is not common knowledge and which could adversely impact on future business. It is important that companies are able to share commercially sensitive information with Welsh Government in the confidence that that information will not then enter the public domain and damage their wider commercial interests and opportunities.

There is significant public interest in Welsh Government, receiving commercially sensitive information from companies. The receipt of this information is relevant for Welsh Government issuing grants to undertake programme work on its behalf. Disclosure of such commercially sensitive information would limit the amount of information of this nature that we receive in future, limiting the effectiveness of Welsh Government activity and Welsh government's ability to effectively scrutinise use of public money given in grants. It is not in the public interest for the exchange of this information with Welsh Government to be limited.

Conclusion

The commercial sensitivities mean that on this occasion we consider that the public interest would not be served by its release. Whilst recognising that there are public interest arguments for disclosure of the requested information on grounds of completeness, I consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it in this instance.

This is because we consider that the public interest argument of prevention of detriment on commercial interests in withholding the information, outweighs that in releasing it in this instance.