

Ein cyf / Our ref: ATISN 27207

Dyddiad / Date: 07 August 2026

Dear ,

ATISN 27207 - Children placed in unregistered placements

Thank you for your request which we received on 10/07/2026.

Information requested

Following a previous Freedom of Information request ATISN 17302 responded to by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), you asked for the following data:

1. *For each six-month period from 1 September 2021 (or the earliest date for which comparable notification data is held) to 28 February 2026, and for the part-period 1 March 2026 to the date of this request:*
 - a) *the number of children notified to CIW by Welsh Local Authorities as placed in unregistered placements for more than 3 days, as an all-Wales total and broken down by local authority;*
 - b) *the number of distinct services operating without registration (OWR) in which those children were placed.*
2. *For each of the same periods, the age range of the children notified, youngest to oldest, as provided at Question 2 of ATISN 17302.*

Our response

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you requested held by CIW is as follows.

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Sarn Mynach
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Conwy
LL31 9RZ
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Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
Welsh Government Offices
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Conwy
LL31 9RZ
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

For each six-month period from 1 September 2021 (or the earliest date for which comparable notification data is held) to 28 February 2026, and for the part-period 1 March 2026 to the date of this request (10 July 2026):

- 1. a) The number of children notified to CIW by Welsh Local Authorities as placed in unregistered placements for more than 3 days, as an all-Wales total and broken down by Local Authority.***

CIW register and inspect providers and services so cannot report on numbers of children.

- b) The number of distinct services operating without registration (OWR) in which those children were placed.***

Please note: Although CIW has requested that Local Authorities inform the inspectorate when they commence operating a children's care home without registration, there is no legal obligation for them to do so. As such, the figures below reflect the number of unregistered settings reported to CIW by financial year.

2021-2022 – Our enforcement records did not exist then and therefore data is not available

2022-2023 – 92

This information is only contained in the one-off deep dive conducted for the purposes of a report CIW published. Link to report: [Report on care homes for children operating without registration](#). We have included the relevant graph in **Annex 1 Table 2** attached.

2023-2024 – 117

2024-2025 – 69

2025-2026 - 76

The data from **01/04/2023** to **10/07/2026** is broken down at **Annex 1 Table 1** attached, per 6-month period and per placing local authority. Please note, we have used the 6-month periods of 1 April to 30 September and 1 October to 31 March, in line with financial years, for ease of comparison. The data is also broken down by whether the local authority was operating the care home itself, i.e. providing accommodation and care, or whether they were commissioning a private company to operate the care home OWR.

We must ensure any information we disclose could not inadvertently identify any individual people to which that data relates. Where the numbers are low, there is a risk of individual children being identified from that data when this is put into the public domain. This is because these care homes often accommodate one child or a very small number of children. We have therefore provided the totals for the date range requested, and where the number of care homes operating OWR for any individual local authority is less than 5, we have not given the specific figure but recorded it is less than 5 (<5).

- 2. For each of the same periods, the age range of the children notified, youngest to oldest, as provided at Question 2 of ATISN 17302.***

As described above, in 2023 CIW undertook a specific review of care homes for children operating without registration. While as part of that review CIW explored details such as length of placements and age of children, this is not information CIW can routinely identify.

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.of.information@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 the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely