

28 August 2026

Dear

ATISN 27291

Thank you for your request which I received on 31 July 2026.

Information requested

You asked for:

1. Sale and ownership
 - All correspondence between the DfE and the purchasers (Galaxy Global Education/Ruthin Education Ltd) relating to the acquisition of Ruthin School.
 - Any due diligence undertaken by the DfE before the change of ownership.
 - Any concerns raised about the financial standing or governance of the purchaser.
2. School closures
 - All correspondence between the DfE and the owners concerning the proposed closure of Ruthin School.
 - Any contingency plans discussed for pupils and staff.
 - When the DfE first became aware the school was at risk of closure.
3. Other Galaxy Global schools
 - Correspondence relating to the closure of Malvern St James, Durham High School and any other schools owned by Galaxy Global.
 - Whether the DfE has investigated concerns raised about the company's conduct. Recent reporting notes that three schools under the same ownership have closed in quick succession.
4. Foreign ownership
 - The number of independent schools in England owned or controlled by overseas companies.
 - Whether the DfE has a policy on foreign ownership of independent schools.
 - Whether ministers have considered introducing safeguards for schools of significant historical importance.
5. Ministerial correspondence
 - Copies of any ministerial briefings prepared for the Secretary of State regarding the closure.
 - Any communications between ministers and MPs concerning Ruthin School.

Our response

In your request you ask for information held by the Department for Education (DfE). DfE is a UK Government department responsible for education in England; it is separate from the Welsh Government, which holds responsibilities for education in Wales. The Welsh Government does not have access to documents held by the UK Government. Therefore, this response is based on a search of paper and electronic records held by the Welsh Government.

1. The Welsh Government does not hold the information requested. Independent schools like Ruthin are privately managed and not controlled or funded by the Welsh Government. Therefore, decisions regarding all aspects of the school's ownership, management and operation are the responsibility of their proprietors and not the Welsh Government.
2. There was no correspondence between the Welsh Government and the owners concerning the proposed closure of Ruthin School. The Welsh Government was not aware of the closure of the school until it was reported in the media on 1 July and had had no engagement with the proprietors in respect of the school's financial arrangements, assets or liabilities.
3. These schools were in England. Therefore, the Welsh Government does not hold the information.
4. The Welsh Government does not have a policy on foreign ownership of independent schools and does not collect information on numbers of schools in Wales owned by companies overseas. The Welsh Government does not currently intend to introduce separate arrangements for particular schools based on their length of operation or historical significance
5. The Welsh Government does not hold information relating to briefings for the Secretary of State or correspondence with MPs, as those would be UK Government records. The information held by the Welsh Government relates to Welsh Ministers and Members of the Senedd. The following documents are attached:
 - A copy of a Ministerial briefing (Doc. 1)
 - A copy of a letter from a Member of the Senedd (Doc. 2) and the Cabinet Minister for Education & Welsh Language's reply (Doc. 3)
 - A copy of a letter from Members of the Senedd (Doc 4). and the Cabinet Minister for Education & Welsh Language's reply (Doc. 5).

Certain information has been redacted under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because it constitutes the personal data of third parties. The Welsh Government considers that disclosure of this information would contravene the data protection principles. The redactions include information such as the names and contact details of individuals where appropriate.

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