

10 September 2026

Dear

## **ATISN 27317 Nation of Sanctuary**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 9 August 2026. You asked for the following information related to the Nation of Sanctuary:

1. The estimated cost of funding the policy i.e. staffing costs, administration costs etc.
2. The cost of funding housing for the said policy and the impact on the limited social housing stock.
3. The cost of medical interventions required and any impact on our already overstretched health service.
4. The estimated cost of translation services.
5. Any risk assessments carried out in relation to the policy.

### **Our response**

#### **1. Estimated policy, staffing and administration costs**

The information you have requested is already in the public domain:

- Information regarding the Welsh Government's Migration & Sanctuary team: [FOI release 25115: Migration and Sanctuary team | GOV.WALES](#) (1 October 2025)
- Nation of Sanctuary expenditure 2019-2025: [FOI release 26247: Nation of Sanctuary | GOV.WALES](#) (12 November 2025)
- Nation of Sanctuary expenditure 2025-2026: [FOI release 27160: Nation of Sanctuary | GOV.WALES](#) (29 July 2026)
- Nation of Sanctuary expenditure 2019-2026: [FOI release 27287: Nation of Sanctuary costs | GOV.WALES](#) (9 September 2026)

#### **2. Housing costs and impact on social housing**

The Welsh Government does not fund asylum accommodation. Asylum accommodation is provided by the UK Government, through the Home Office under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Act to asylum seekers, failed asylum seekers and those whose claims are declared inadmissible who would otherwise be destitute. Costs and impacts associated with asylum accommodation are therefore held by the Home Office.

The Nation of Sanctuary approach does not determine immigration status or social housing eligibility. Immigration status determines who may lawfully access social housing, with many groups remaining ineligible due to immigration restrictions or 'No Recourse to Public Funds' conditions. Individuals who are eligible for social housing are assessed through the same allocation framework as other applicants and are prioritised in accordance with housing need and the local authority's allocation policy. Eligibility to apply for social housing does not guarantee an allocation. The policy does not create any additional entitlement or priority within the social housing allocation system. Any demand for social housing, and any

associated costs arising from social housing and homelessness duties, are determined by statutory obligations, individual eligibility and need, and local housing pressures.

### 3. Medical interventions and impact on health services

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

People seeking asylum and refugees may access NHS Wales services in accordance with the applicable eligibility rules and clinical need. They are not given priority over other patients because of immigration status. Local Health Boards plan and deliver services for their populations and record expenditure through their normal financial and clinical arrangements rather than under a single Nation of Sanctuary heading.

### 4. Translation and interpretation costs

Some of the information you have requested is already in the public domain:

- Nation of Sanctuary expenditure 2019-2025: [FOI release 26247: Nation of Sanctuary | GOV.WALES](#) (12 November 2025)

I have identified the following Welsh Government funding which is also in scope of your request. This funding was provided via the Nation of Sanctuary budget:

| Service                                      | Financial year | Total cost |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Wales Interpretation and Translation Service | 2025-2026      | £1,072     |

Translation and interpretation support may be commissioned or recorded separately by local health boards, local authorities, contractors and other delivery bodies as part of their wider duties and service provision. This information is not held by the Welsh Government.

### 5. Risk and impact assessments

[The 2019 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan](#) was preceded by public consultation and accompanied by published [Refugee and asylum seeker plan \(nation of sanctuary\): integrated impact assessment | GOV.WALES](#). Since 2024, Nation of Sanctuary actions have been included within the Nation of Sanctuary chapter of the [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#) and are subject to its governance and monitoring arrangements.

#### 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