

15 September 2026

Dear

ATISN 27356

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 August. You asked for the information as listed at Annex 1.

Our response

We do not hold the information requested. The Emergency Alert system is non-devolved, therefore its operation is solely a matter for the UK Government's Cabinet Office, rather than the Welsh Government. This includes decisions on languages in which the alerts are sent, timing of alerts being issued, and any sequencing.

Question 1:

Final English:

Issued by the UK Government

There is a very high risk of wildfires nationally. Residents, landowners and visitors should not undertake any activity that could start a fire, including disposable barbecues, firepits, garden incinerators or fireworks. Even a small flame can rapidly develop into a major wildfire placing lives, homes, businesses and emergency responders at risk.

Follow official updates and report signs of fire immediately by calling 999. Search gov.uk/alerts for more information.

Final Welsh:

Anfonwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU

Mae yna berygl difrifol o dân ar draws y genedl. Ni ddylai trigolion, tîrfeddianwyr nac ymwelwyr ymgymryd ag unrhyw weithgaredd a allai achosi tân, gan gynnwys barbeciwiau tafladwy, pyllau tân, llosgyddion gardd neu dân gwyllt. Gall hyd yn oed fflam fach ddatblygu'n gyflym yn dân gwyllt mawr, gan beryglu bywydau, cartrefi, busnesau ac ymatebwyr brys.

Dilynwch y diweddariadau swyddogol ac adroddwch arwyddion o dân ar unwaith drwy ffonio 999. Edrychwch ar gov.uk/alerts am fwy o wybodaeth.

The Welsh Government provided Welsh language translation support to the UK Government Cabinet Office.

Question 2 and 3

On Friday 14 August, following sustained wildfire incidents across the UK and significant strain on emergency services, UK Government took the decision to issue an alert to all mobile phones in England and Wales. The alert highlighted the high

risk of wildfires nationally and urged the public not to undertake any activities that could start further wildfires.

The Welsh Government was informed by UK Government Cabinet Office on the afternoon of Friday 14 August of their intention to issue the Emergency Alert.

UK Government Cabinet Office requested support with translating the proposed message into Welsh, which the Welsh Government provided.

Welsh Government acknowledged it is for Cabinet Office to determine the language in which alerts are sent and drew attention to the recent Welsh Language Commissioner judgement in relation to Emergency Alerts. (Annex 1, Email exchange enclosed)

The UK Government Cabinet Office acknowledged receipt of the translation and confirmed the UK Government decision to issue the alert at approximately 19:00 - for those handsets in Wales, it would be delivered firstly in Welsh, followed by a separate alert in English. (Annex 1, Email exchange enclosed)

Question 4

No information held.

Question 5

In response to a) and b) See Annex 1.

In response to c) to e) no information held.

Question 6

No information held.

The Emergency Alert system is non-devolved, therefore its operation is solely a matter for the UK Government's Cabinet Office, rather than the Welsh Government.

You can contact the Cabinet Office here: [Contact the Cabinet Office - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/contact-cabinet-office)

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

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

1. ALERT TEXT

Please provide the final Welsh-language and English-language versions of the alert text held by the Welsh

Government, including any version which the Welsh Government drafted, approved, submitted or received before transmission.

2. DECISION CONCERNING LANGUAGE AND SEQUENCING

Please provide any record sufficient to show:

- a. who determined that Welsh and English versions of the alert should be issued;
- b. whether the Welsh Government requested, approved or expected the versions to be transmitted simultaneously or separately;
- c. whether any order of transmission was specified;
- d. whether any interval between the two versions was specified, anticipated or discussed; and
- e. any recorded rationale for those decisions.

3. INSTRUCTIONS OR SUBMISSIONS TO THE EMERGENCY ALERTS SERVICE

Please provide any instruction, request, submission or other communication sent by or on behalf of the Welsh

Government to the UK Emergency Alerts service, Cabinet Office, Government Digital Service or other relevant

authority which contained or concerned:

- a. the English alert text;
- b. the Welsh alert text;
- c. the language selection;
- d. the intended timing of transmission; or
- e. the intended sequence of transmission.

4. ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

Please provide any Equality Impact Assessment, accessibility assessment, Public Sector Equality Duty assessment,

or other recorded consideration relied upon in connection with the language arrangements for the alert.

For this limb, I am specifically seeking any recorded consideration of the effect of sending a Welsh-language

emergency alert before an English-language version upon:

- a. people in Wales who do not understand Welsh;
- b. people with learning or cognitive disabilities;
- c. neurodivergent people;
- d. people with mental-health conditions which may affect their response to an emergency warning; and
- e. people with communication or comprehension impairments.

I do not seek general Welsh-language policy or general equality documentation unrelated to Emergency Alerts.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION

For the period 14 to 16 August 2026 inclusive, please provide internal Welsh Government communications and communications with the Cabinet Office, Government Digital Service or originating public authority, but only insofar as they concern:

- a. the Welsh-language version being received before the English-language version;
- b. the interval between the two versions;
- c. reports or concerns about the sequencing;
- d. one version replacing or ceasing to display after another version was received; or
- e. accessibility or safety concerns arising from the language sequencing.

6. INCIDENT REVIEW

Please provide any incident report, technical report, briefing, internal note or post-event review created by 16

August 2026 concerning the language sequencing or timing of the Welsh and English alerts.

If the Welsh Government did not originate or control the alert, I would nevertheless ask that the information held by the Welsh Government falling within the above limbs be disclosed and that the originating or responsible authority be identified.

ANNEX 1

On Fri, 14 Aug 2026 at 15:39

Hi both,

As per our discussion just now, please see below the draft EA for translation into Welsh.

I have also checked our response to the WLC and we stated that HMG and WG preference was Welsh language first followed by English one minute later.

Starts

Sent by the UK Government

Extreme fire risk in your area. Residents, landowners and visitors should not undertake any activity that could start a fire, including disposable barbecues, firepits, garden incinerators or fireworks. Even a small flame can rapidly develop into a major wildfire, placing lives, homes, businesses and emergency responders at risk.

Stay alert. Follow official updates and report signs of fire immediately by calling 999.

Search gov.uk/alerts for more information

Ends

Best wishes,

Sent: 14 August 2026 16:41

Subject: RE: Emergency Alert Text - Wildfire

– Welsh translation below of the EA alert message.

The Welsh Finance minister has been made aware the alert is issuing from UKG this afternoon.

We will leave to COBR to determine how best to issue the Welsh and English messages as we recognise you're working within technical constraints of the system (character limit etc). I would however draw your attention to the recent Welsh Language commissioner judgement with respect to Emergency Alerts and our Ministers' expectations that it is abided by.

Anfonwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU

Mae yna berygl o dân eithafol yn eich ardal. Ni ddylai trigolion, tîrfeddianwyr nac ymwelwyr ymgymryd ag unrhyw weithgaredd a allai achosi tân, gan gynnwys barbeciwiau tafladwy, pyllau tân, llosgyddion gardd neu dân gwyllt. Gall hyd yn oed fflam fach ddatblygu'n gyflym yn dân gwyllt mawr, gan beryglu bywydau, cartrefi, busnesau ac ymatebwyr brys. Arhoswch yn wyliadwrs. Dilynwch y diweddariadau swyddogol ac adroddwch arwyddion o dân ar unwaith drwy ffonio 999. Edrychwch ar gov.uk/alerts am fwy o wybodaeth

Regards,