

15 September 2026

Dear

ATISN 27364

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 August. You asked for the information listed at Annex 1 and Annex 2, in relation to the national emergency alert.

Our response

The Welsh Government does not hold recorded information in relation to the points set out in Annex 1. You can contact the UK Government Cabinet Office here: [Contact the Cabinet Office - GOV.UK](#)

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 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 the accessibility, languages in which the alerts are sent, timing and any sequencing of alerts.

In response to your question in Annex 2 we have interpreted this to be in relation to the emergency alert in line with the original request provided in Annex 1. We refer you to the UK Government Cabinet Office commitment under its Welsh Language Scheme. [Welsh language scheme - Cabinet Office - GOV.UK](#)

The Cabinet Office has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public business in Wales, it will treat the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality.

The UK Government scheme is in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993, which requires public organisations who deliver public services in Wales to prepare a Welsh Language Scheme.

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.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

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

Any risk assessments, impact assessments or due-diligence documents considering the potential for the Welsh-first format to cause confusion, distress or panic.

Any advice, guidance or internal communications considered before the decision was made.

Any evidence or research relied upon in deciding that Welsh should appear before English in a national emergency alert.

The name and position/title of the individual or individuals who ultimately authorised or made the decision to use this order.

The relevant department, team or organisation responsible for making or approving this decision.

The date on which the decision was made and, where applicable, the date on which the decision was approved.

Any records showing who had final responsibility for the wording, formatting and ordering of the languages in the alert.

Any consideration given to whether presenting Welsh first could delay understanding of the emergency by English-speaking recipients.

Annex 2: follow-up question received 27 August 2026

Can you tell me who sets the language requirements?