

28/09/2026

Dear

ATISN 27487 - Council ALN budget returns 2026-27, submission dates and copies

Thank you for your request which I received on 11/09/2026. You asked for:

Relating to the local authority budget returns underpinning the statistical release "Budgeted expenditure on additional learning needs (ALN) provision, April 2026 to March 2027" (published 25 June 2026), which states that the data was collected in March and April 2026.

Q1 - For each of the 22 Welsh local authorities, the precise date on which its section 52 budget return (or the relevant return containing the ALN expenditure data used in that release) was first submitted to the Welsh Government.

Q2 - For each authority, the date of any resubmission, amendment or corrected return received before publication on 25 June 2026, and a brief description of what was amended where recorded.

Q3 - A copy of the return as submitted by Wrexham County Borough Council, including any accompanying notes, validation queries raised by Welsh Government statisticians, and the authority's responses to those queries.

Q4 - A copy of the guidance, form template and commissioning letter or email issued to local authorities for the 2026-27 collection, including the date it was issued.

Q5 - If providing copies of all 22 returns would exceed the cost limit, please treat item 3 as limited to Wrexham County Borough Council only, as stated, and items 1 and 2 as a request for a simple table of dates, which I anticipate is readily retrievable from your data collection system.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

The Additional Learning Needs statistical release is compiled using data from two data collection forms, the Revenue Budget form and the Section 52 budget form. Data validation queries are carried out by email and the time taken to analyse all emails from all 22 authorities for both data collections along with the other requests would take longer than the 24-hour FOI limit. You have pre-empted this in your request (Q5) and asked for a simpler set of dates and data which I have provided in full.

The personal details of individuals have been redacted.

In response to Q3,

The data in both Revenue Budget and Section 52 forms need to reconcile against each other to ensure consistency. Validation requests were sent to Wrexham and they submitted new forms with amendments to the nursery service to rectify the issue.

Doc 1 – a list of all 22 authorities, the date of the initial response and the date the data was finalised for both relevant data collection forms.

Doc 2 – A completed revenue budget form from Wrexham.

Doc 3 – A completed Section 52 form from Wrexham.

Doc 4 – The Revenue Budget form guidance notes.

Doc 5 – The Revenue Budget form education guidance notes.

Doc 6 – A blank Revenue Budget form.

Doc 7 – The Revenue Budget letter issued to local authorities.

Doc 8 – The Section 52 budget statement letter issued to local authorities.

Doc 9 – The Section 52 budget guidance notes.

Doc 10 – A blank Section 52 template that was sent to Wrexham.

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

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