

07 October 2026

Dear

ATISN 27488

Information requested

Thank you for your request which we received on 10 September 2026. You asked for copies of documents covering the period 2 March to 8 May 2026 inclusive relating to a funding consequential to Wales, specifically:

- Any correspondence, circulars, letters or emails sent by the Welsh Government (ministers or officials etc) to Welsh local authorities, whether individually, collectively, or via the Welsh Local Government Association, concerning the consequential funding arising from UK Government spending on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in England, referenced in the Cabinet Secretary for Finance's written statement of 3 March 2026, including any indicative, provisional or illustrative figures for individual authorities' potential shares of that funding.
- Any correspondence received by the Welsh Government from local authorities or the WLGA on the same subject during the same period.
- Any distribution schedule, allocation table, formula or modelling produced or shared during the same period showing actual or potential authority-level shares of the ALN consequential.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

- Document ATISN-27488-01 – Minutes of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales meeting, Tuesday 24 March 2026, available from the Welsh Government website at www.gov.wales/finance-sub-group.
- Document ATISN-27488-02 – Welsh Government Education News wrap up email from 1 April 2026 to Local Authority Directors of Education, Welsh Local Government Association officers and other Education organisations. The three attachments are not relevant to the topic of your request and are not included.
- Document ATISN-27488-03 – Email chain between a Welsh Government official and Local Authority officers for Conwy and the Vale of Glamorgan regarding a possible meeting to discuss an inclusion business plan in context of consequential funding to Wales.

We have decided that some of the information described in the enclosed list is exempt from disclosure under section(s) 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

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

Annex A

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Section 40(2)

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

We have decided to withhold the following information:

- Third party personal data, specifically names, roles, and contact details of individuals.

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Section 40(2)

Section 40(2) together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b) provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

'Personal data' is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 1998 ('the DPA 2018') and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.

We have concluded that, in this instance, the information requested contains third party personal data.

Under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

"processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject"

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

"processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child".

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under Freedom of Information Act 2000 it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

- The Legitimate interest test: Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
- The Necessity test: Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
- The Balancing test: Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate interests

We have not identified any legitimate interest in disclosure of the third party personal data contained in the information requested.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

We conclude that disclosure of the third party personal data contained in the information requested is not necessary in this case; it is neither indispensable nor necessary to understanding the information released.

3. The balance between legitimate interests and the data subject's interests or fundamental rights and freedoms

We believe the third party personal data contained in the information requested does not materially improve understanding or provide necessary context to the information.

Release of individuals' personal data could cause unjustified harm through unwanted and inappropriate attention for example on social media, and could increase the risk of direct contact which bypasses established and appropriate channels of communication, guidance, protocols and procedures, including for example formal complaints processes.

As release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle. It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

Annex B

Captured information

1. Document ATISN-27488-01

Minutes of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales meeting, Tuesday 24 March 2026, available from the Welsh Government website at www.gov.wales/finance-sub-group.

2. Document ATISN-27488-02

Welsh Government Education News wrap up email from 1 April 2026 to Local Authority Directors of Education, Welsh Local Government Association officers and other Education organisations. The three attachments are not relevant to the topic of your request and are not included.

From: <<Exempt, s40(2)>> (Education Directorate)

Sent: 01 April 2026 15:04

To: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Blaenau Gwent); (Bridgend); (Caerphilly); (Cardiff); (Carmarthenshire); (Ceredigion); (Conwy); (Denbighshire); (Flintshire); (Gwynedd); (Ynys Mon); (Merthyr); (Monmouthshire); (Neath Port Talbot); (Newport); (Pembrokeshire); (Powys); (Rhondda Cynon Taf); (Swansea); (Torfaen); (Vale of Glamorgan); (Wrexham); Education Deputy Directors

Cc: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Estyn); (Estyn); (Estyn); (WLGA); (Dysgu); (Dysgu); (WLGA); (Central South Consortium); (Central South Consortium); (South East Wales Education Achievement Service); (WLGA)

Subject: RE: WG Education News Wrap Up Extra!

Pnawn da pawb Fe wnaethom anfon crynodeb newyddion atoch wythnos yn ôl. Dwi ddim yn meddwl ein bod ni di sylweddoli pa mor brysur fyddai wythnos diwethaf, felly roeddwn i eisiau gyrru nodyn atoch rhag ofn eich bod wedi colli unrhyw beth gan ei fod hefyd yn ddiwedd y tymor. Mae hwn yn nodyn mwy anffurfiol i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ychydig o bethau: - Crynodeb newyddion addysg - Cadarnhad bod Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet wedi dyrannu £1.035m ychwanegol o flwyddyn ariannol 2026/27 i gefnogi symud CADYau i'r raddfa arweinyddiaeth. Mae hyn yn cydnabod pryderon awdurdodau lleol efallai na fydd y	Hi all We sent out a fortnightly update only a week ago. I don't think we realised how busy the last week would be, so wanted just to give you a note in case you'd missed anything as it was also the end of term. This is a more informal note to provide an update on a few things: - Education news wrap-up - Confirmation that the Cabinet Secretary has allocated an additional £1.035m from financial year 2026/27 to support moving of ALNCos to the leadership scale. This is in recognition of the concerns from local authorities that the funding previously announced may not
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cyllid a gyhoeddwyd yn flaenorol yn talu'n ddigonol â'r gost ychwanegol o symud cydlynwyr ADY i'r raddfa gyflog grŵp arweinyddiaeth a allai arwain at ddiswyddiadau o fewn ysgolion. Mae'r cyllid ychwanegol hwn i geisio atal colledion yn y rolau hanfodol hyn o fewn ysgolion a bydd yn cael <u>ei seilio</u> i gefnogi costau parhaus y newid hwn. - Llythyr ar Addysg ddewisol yn y cartref a phlant sy'n colli addysg fel crynodeb diwedd tymor - Cadarnhad o'r cytundeb gan <<Exempt s40(2)>> (WLGA) yn yr is-grŵp Cyllid yr wythnos diwethaf y byddai gwaith yn cymryd lle rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a swyddogion llywodraeth leol ar gynnig trawsnewid cynhwysiant yng nghyd-destun cyllid canlyniadol AAAA a gyhoeddwyd yn Natganiad Gwanwyn y DU. Rwy'n credu eich bod wedi cael diweddariad uniongyrchol gan CLILC ac fe wnes i friffio'r Prif Weithredwyr ar hyn yr wythnos diwethaf hefyd. Mae llawer o waith eisoes wedi'i wneud yn ein gweithgorau ADY felly rwy'n credu bod gennym fan cychwyn da a byddwn yn codi hwn gyda chi ar ddechrau'r tymor nesaf.	sufficiently cover the additional cost of moving ALN coordinators to the leadership group pay scale which could result in redundancies within schools. This additional funding is to seek to prevent losses in these vital roles within schools and will be <u>baselined</u> to support the ongoing costs of this change. - Letter on EHE/CME as an end of term round-up - Confirmation of the agreement by <<Exempt, s40(2)>> (WLGA) at the Finance sub-group last week that work would be undertaken between Welsh government and local government officials on an inclusion transformation proposal in the context of the SEND consequentials announced in the UK Spring Statement. I think you have had a direct update from WLGA and I briefed Chief Execs on this last week too. A lot of work has already been done in our ALN working groups so I think we have a good starting point and will pick up with you at the beginning of next term.
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Cofion cynnes / kind regards

<<Exempt s40(2)>>

Y Grŵp Addysg, Diwylliant a'r Gymraeg / Education, Culture and Welsh Language Group

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Parc Cathays / Cathays Park

3. Document ATISN-27488-03

Email chain between a Welsh Government official and Local Authority officers for Conwy and the Vale of Glamorgan regarding a possible meeting to discuss an inclusion business plan in context of consequential funding to Wales.

From: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)

Sent: 27 April 2026 14:12

To: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Vale of Glamorgan); (Conwy); (Support for Learners Division)

Subject: RE: Inclusion business planning

Hi

Thanks for both replying, you are indeed correct <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Conwy) this is the development of a business case which is focused on inclusive education and therefore much wider than ALN.

That is helpful to hear that there is a wider ADEW group to work with on this, I wasn't aware. I am happy to be led by you, and organise a bigger group discussion, which will probably be next week now so we can then bring something back to ADEW residential as I understand that is the plan. It sounds like it is best to organise that directly through WLGA.

Thanks,

<<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)

From: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Vale of Glamorgan)

Sent: 27 April 2026 13:16

To: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division); (Conwy); (Support for Learners Division)

Subject: RE: Inclusion business planning

Hi <<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)

Given that this is a hot topic for ADEW, a group of people were identified to work on an Inclusive Education Business Case – the reps include: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Conwy) and myself (Vale of Glamorgan); (Monmouthshire); (Neath Port Talbot); (Swansea); (Cardiff), plus (WLGA) & (WLGA), WLGA. The intention is that the proposal for the business case should be broader than just ALN and include wider inclusion, equity and relevant health related spend.

Therefore, would it be better to try and convene a meeting with all of us and not just <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Conwy) and myself?

I can do Thursday afternoon of this week, but like I said, I do think it would be better to have a discussion with the wider group.

Thanks

<<Exempt s40(2)>> (Vale of Glamorgan)

From: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)
Sent: 24 April 2026 16:44
To: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Conwy); (Vale of Glamorgan); (Support for Learners Division)
Subject: RE: Inclusion business planning

Hello both,

I wonder if you have any time slots next week to talk more about this please? This is in relation to making a bid for the UK Government SEND consequential, in-year funding for 26-27. I want to talk this through with you both to explore what is possible.

Thanks,
<<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)

From: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)
Sent: 17 April 2026 15:32
To: <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Conwy); (Vale of Glamorgan); (Support for Learners Division)
Subject: Inclusion business planning

Hello both,

I hope you are well.

I hear from <<Exempt s40(2)>> (Education Directorate) that the development of an inclusion business plan was agreed at today's ADEW meeting, taking forward a commitment from the WLGA.

It would be good if we could please arrange some time to have an initial chat about this and bring together our thinking, plus what might be possible. Do you both have any availability on the morning of Thursday 23rd April or after 4p on 29th April or morning of Friday 1st May?

Thanks,
<<Exempt s40(2)>> (ECWL – Support for Learners Division)