Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chief Finance Officers

9 November 2026

Dear Colleagues

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2027-28:
STANDARD SPENDING ASSESSMENTS

Verification of Claimant Count and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit claimant data for distribution of Standard Spending Assessments (SSAs)

The Welsh Government has the power to collect information from local authorities for use in the calculation of Standard Spending Assessments (SSAs). To ensure the information used is as accurate and reliable as possible, it was agreed with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) that local authorities should have the opportunity to scrutinise the information used in the settlement calculations. This information includes Claimant Count (an administrative measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally because they are unemployed) and estimates of the number of claimants receiving a range of benefits administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

As these datasets are updated regularly, figures may vary depending on when they are downloaded. To minimise any differences arising from updates to the underlying data, and in response to feedback from last year's verification exercise, we will make these datasets available earlier than usual. The remaining information will be made available in a separate verification round between publication of the Provisional and Final Settlements, as was the case for the 2026-27 settlement.

Summary of the verification process

We will publish these datasets on the Welsh Government website on **9 November 2026**.

As outlined above, the dynamic nature of these datasets means you may observe differences between the published figures and those obtained when following the methodology described in the data note. The purpose of the verification exercise is not to revisit published estimates

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Ffôn • Tel: 0300 025 8171
Ebost • Email: LGFPSettlement@gov.wales

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where any differences are minor. Rather, the exercise is intended to identify any significant errors or revisions before publication of the Provisional Local Government Settlement.

The procedure

You are requested to go onto the Welsh Government website, download the spreadsheet and scrutinise the data relating to your authority. The data takes the form of a spreadsheet containing datasets for all 22 local authorities. A data note describing the data and process in more detail is also available on the website.

Please complete the verification form and return to us via email by **23 November 2026** (a nil return will be viewed as an agreement to the data shared). If you have any queries about the data please raise them on the query form and send back to us via the email address LGFPSettlement@Gov.Wales

Whilst there is no formal obligation on your part to participate in this exercise, it is regarded as an important stage in the derivation of the Local Government Settlement.

The data and query form, data note and verification form can be found on the following link:

https://gov.wales/local-government-revenue-and-capital-settlement-verification-2027-2028

I appreciate that this means extra work at a busy time, but I am sure that you understand the need to have accurate data for immediate use. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
Yours sincerely,

Jolyon Lloyd-Davies
Local Government Finance Policy and Sustainability

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Ffôn • Tel: 0300 025 8171
Ebost • Email: LGFPSettlement@gov.wales

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