

## Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2016-17

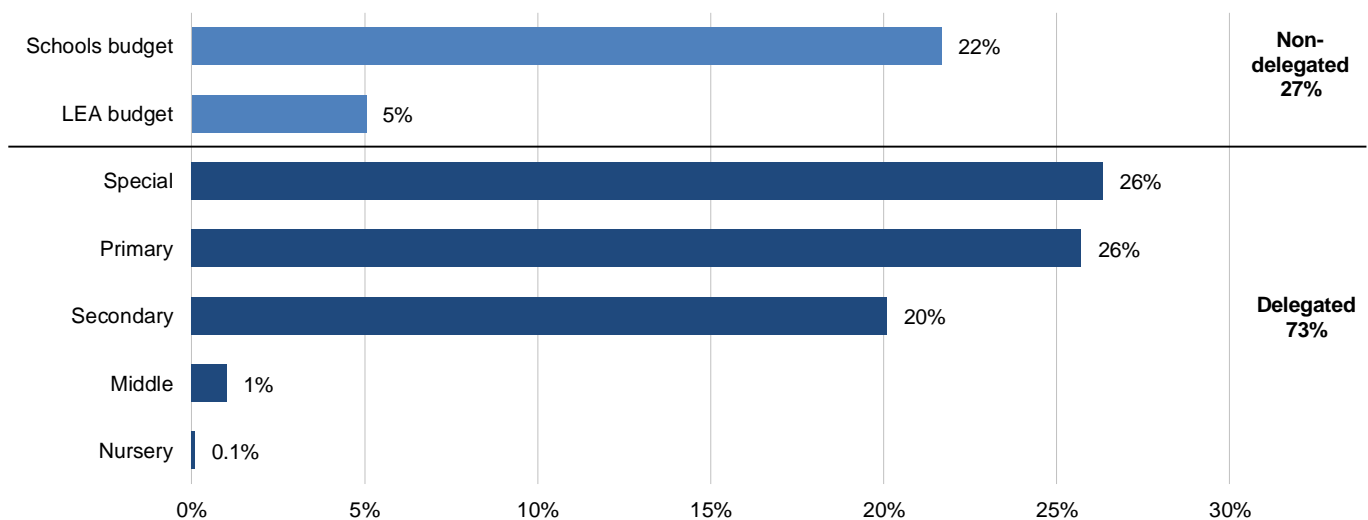
### Introduction

This statistical release analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh Local Authorities in respect of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for 2016-17. The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

### Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £362 million, an increase of £5.4 million or 1.5% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).
- Delegated expenditure to special schools accounts for 26% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools account for a further 47% of the total. The remaining 27% is made up of money held centrally by local authorities (chart 1).
- Denbighshire delegates the largest proportion of their SEN budget to their schools at 91%, whilst Caerphilly delegates the smallest proportion at 54% (table 2).
- Total SEN expenditure per pupil for Wales is budgeted to be £800. This consists of £586 delegated expenditure per pupil and £214 non-delegated expenditure per pupil (table 3).
- Blaenau Gwent has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,004, whilst the Vale of Glamorgan has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £597 (table 3 and chart 3).

**Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2016-17**



Additional information is available on the Welsh Government 'StatsWales' website: [statswales.gov.wales](http://statswales.gov.wales)

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Table 1 shows that budgeted expenditure on SEN provision increased by 1.5% compared to the previous year. Neath Port Talbot has the largest percentage increase due to an increase in the out-of-county placements budget and additional grant. Isle of Anglesey has the largest percentage decrease due to an internal review of SEN funding.

**Table 1: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision (a)**

Authority	<i>£ thousand</i>			
	2015-16	2016-17	Change	Percentage change
Isle of Anglesey	9,811	9,059	-752	-7.7
Gwynedd	13,494	13,663	169	1.3
Conwy	12,324	12,436	112	0.9
Denbighshire	11,625	11,748	123	1.1
Flintshire	19,043	19,607	565	3.0
Wrexham	15,563	16,580	1,017	6.5
Powys	16,279	15,390	-888	-5.5
Ceredigion	7,834	7,618	-216	-2.8
Pembrokeshire	14,644	15,231	587	4.0
Carmarthenshire	21,275	20,431	-844	-4.0
Swansea	31,828	32,493	665	2.1
Neath Port Talbot	14,450	15,696	1,246	8.6
Bridgend	18,722	19,236	514	2.7
Vale of Glamorgan	12,775	12,904	129	1.0
Cardiff	44,734	46,416	1,682	3.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	23,449	24,233	784	3.3
Merthyr Tydfil	7,273	7,648	375	5.2
Caerphilly	19,029	18,407	-622	-3.3
Blaenau Gwent	8,998	8,770	-228	-2.5
Torfaen	8,345	8,758	413	4.9
Monmouthshire	8,439	8,329	-109	-1.3
Newport	16,372	17,083	710	4.3
<b>Wales</b>	<b>356,306</b>	<b>361,737</b>	<b>5,431</b>	<b>1.5</b>

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

**Chart 2: Budgeted expenditure on SEN provision over time**

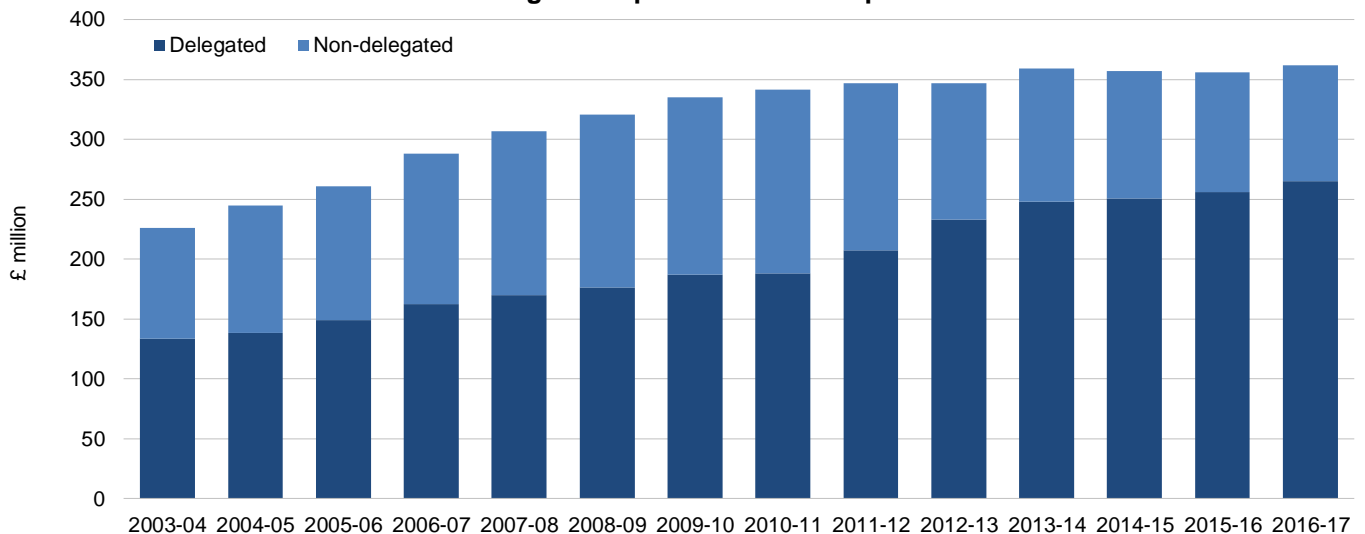


Table 2 shows how SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total at 91% whilst Caerphilly has the lowest at 54%.

**Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2016-17 (a)**

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure						Non-delegated SEN expenditure				Delegated as a percentage of total	
	Notional allocation to: (b)				Special schools (c)	Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget (d)	Inter-authority recoupment (e)	LEA budget (d)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Middle schools	Secondary schools								
Isle of Anglesey	0	2,488	0	1,797	1,533	5,818	1,869	337	1,035	3,241	9,059	64%
Gwynedd	0	4,290	0	3,303	2,820	10,413	2,634	116	500	3,250	13,663	76%
Conwy	0	3,566	0	2,977	3,923	10,467	1,368	73	529	1,970	12,436	84%
Denbighshire	0	3,367	162	1,976	5,163	10,668	2,293	-1,700	487	1,080	11,748	91%
Flintshire	0	5,315	0	3,569	3,784	12,667	4,919	1,518	503	6,940	19,607	65%
Wrexham	14	4,683	0	3,602	4,358	12,657	2,189	1,093	641	3,923	16,580	76%
Powys	0	2,821	156	2,411	5,804	11,192	4,302	-355	251	4,198	15,390	73%
Ceredigion (c)	0	2,214	1,113	1,966	0	5,293	2,375	-281	230	2,325	7,618	69%
Pembrokeshire	0	4,766	0	3,832	3,106	11,704	1,468	992	1,067	3,527	15,231	77%
Cardiff	7	6,539	0	6,076	3,311	15,933	2,528	-6	1,976	4,498	20,431	78%
Swansea	0	10,281	0	7,848	3,624	21,753	8,689	679	1,372	10,740	32,493	67%
Neath Port Talbot	0	3,873	930	1,826	4,747	11,376	1,572	762	1,986	4,320	15,696	72%
Bridgend	0	3,089	0	2,944	7,876	13,909	4,267	131	929	5,327	19,236	72%
Vale of Glamorgan	42	2,548	158	1,499	6,519	10,766	3,434	-2,171	875	2,138	12,904	83%
Cardiff	167	13,104	0	12,851	12,592	38,714	4,837	2,089	776	7,702	46,416	83%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	3,562	128	3,365	8,626	15,687	4,337	2,388	1,821	8,546	24,233	65%
Merthyr Tydfil	11	1,909	0	743	2,961	5,624	1,238	295	491	2,024	7,648	74%
Caerphilly	0	3,382	0	2,829	3,663	9,874	5,676	1,646	1,211	8,533	18,407	54%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,404	1,074	556	2,237	6,271	2,124	-138	513	2,499	8,770	72%
Torfaen	13	2,389	0	2,085	2,303	6,790	759	630	579	1,968	8,758	78%
Monmouthshire	0	2,233	0	1,429	2,270	5,932	1,745	315	338	2,397	8,329	71%
Newport	85	4,185	0	3,229	4,040	11,539	2,530	2,848	166	5,544	17,083	68%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>93,008</b>	<b>3,721</b>	<b>72,712</b>	<b>95,261</b>	<b>265,048</b>	<b>67,153</b>	<b>11,260</b>	<b>18,276</b>	<b>96,689</b>	<b>361,737</b>	<b>73%</b>

(a) Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend on SEN can vary from these notional allocations.

(c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs. A definition of the schools and LEA budget is included in the technical note.

(e) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

Table 3 shows that Blaenau Gwent spends the most per pupil on SEN provision at £1,004 and Vale of Glamorgan spends the least at £597. Total delegated expenditure per pupil is £586, an increase of £19 over the previous year. Non-delegated expenditure per pupil is £214, a decrease of £8 over the previous year.

**Table 3: Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2016-17**

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure							Non-delegated SEN expenditure					Percentage point difference on Wales average (f)
	Notional allocation to: (b)				Special schools (c)		Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment (d)	LEA budget (e)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Middle schools	Secondary schools	Number of places	Budget (£ per place)							
Isle of Anglesey	0	464	0	468	90	17,033	626	201	36	111	349	975	22
Gwynedd	0	455	0	480	161	17,541	633	160	7	30	197	830	4
Conwy	0	420	0	440	200	19,616	677	88	5	34	127	804	1
Denbighshire	0	417	316	311	241	21,468	702	151	-112	32	71	773	-3
Flintshire	0	407	0	373	216	17,519	555	215	66	22	304	858	7
Wrexham	1,093	382	0	576	311	14,014	672	116	58	34	208	881	10
Powys	0	292	314	333	292	19,877	632	243	-20	14	237	870	9
Ceredigion (c)	0	491	808	562	0	0	564	253	-30	25	248	812	1
Pembrokeshire	0	468	0	559	148	20,986	681	85	58	62	205	886	11
Carmarthenshire	82	419	0	546	120	27,596	592	94	-0	73	167	759	-5
Swansea	0	503	0	569	182	19,903	632	252	20	40	312	944	18
Neath Port Talbot	0	338	1,045	256	249	19,071	577	80	39	101	219	796	-1
Bridgend	0	234	0	313	339	23,234	606	186	6	40	232	838	5
Vale of Glamorgan	295	212	154	184	266	24,508	498	159	-101	41	99	597	-25
Cardiff	1,059	424	0	648	573	21,979	752	94	41	15	150	902	13
Rhondda Cynon Taf	213	161	251	219	538	16,048	407	113	62	47	222	629	-21
Merthyr Tydfil	203	350	0	259	170	17,418	659	145	34	57	237	896	12
Caerphilly	0	211	0	254	128	28,617	362	208	60	44	313	674	-16
Blaenau Gwent	0	504	479	341	96	23,302	718	243	-16	59	286	1,004	25
Torfaen	657	301	0	331	101	22,915	473	53	44	40	137	610	-24
Monmouthshire	0	345	0	297	40	56,760	524	154	28	30	212	736	-8
Newport	1,328	306	0	318	157	25,730	480	105	119	7	231	711	-11
<b>Wales</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>20,636</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0</b>
Lowest	0	161	0	184		14,014	362	53		7	71	597	-25
Highest	1,328	504	1,045	648		56,760	752	253		111	349	1,004	25

(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend can vary from these notional allocations.

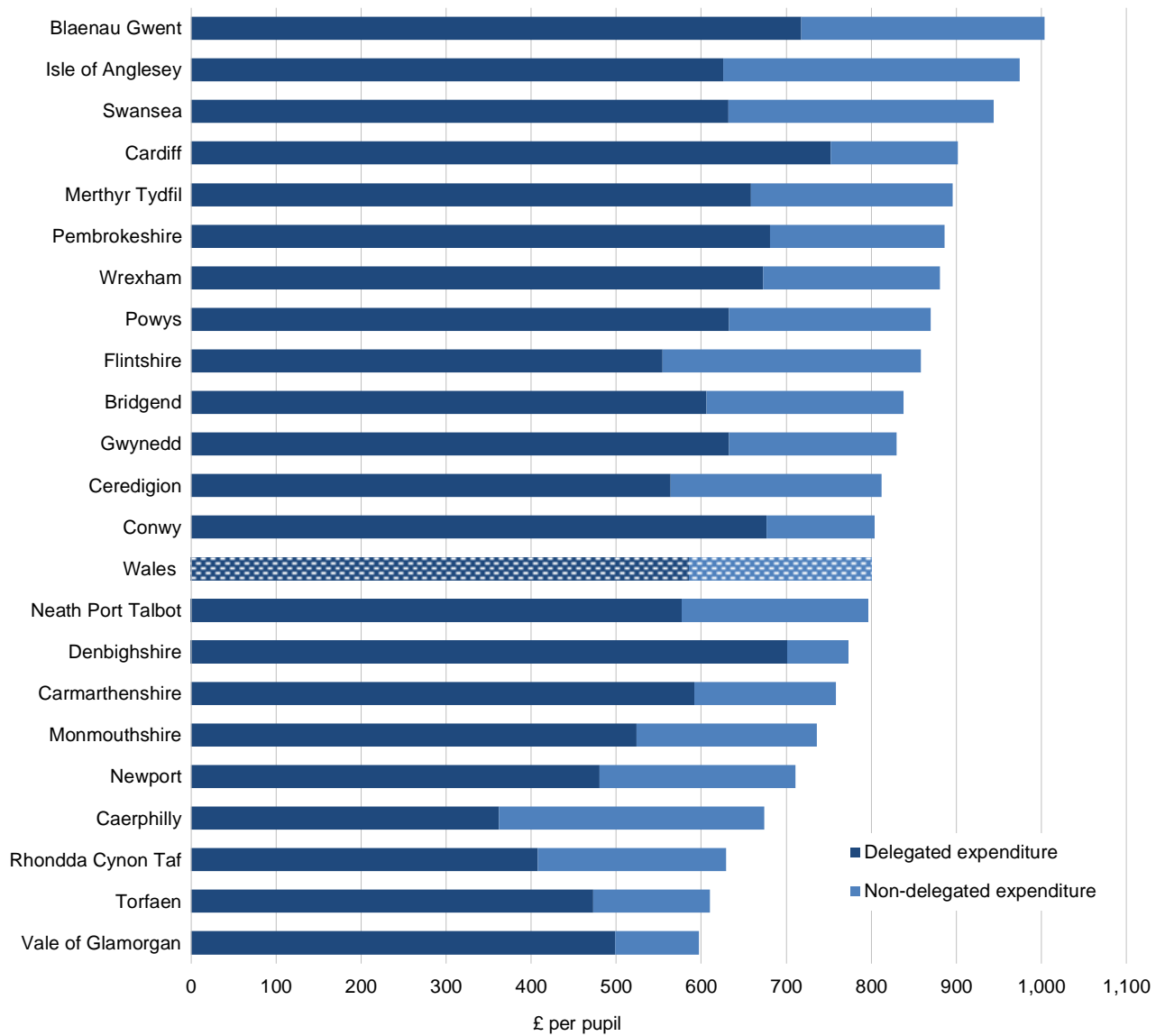
(c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

(e) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs.

(f) Total SEN expenditure per pupil compared to equivalent figure for all Wales (Wales=100).

**Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2016-17 (a)**



(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION

### Data sources

The main sources of information about Local Authority (LA) budgets are the Revenue Account (RA) returns and Section 52 (S52) returns required under Section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### Definitions

There are several issues that should be considered when using these data:

- For SEN provision, it is particularly important to be aware that there is variation in the criteria local authorities use to identify pupils with SEN. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LA. These are however notional and it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN. Therefore, the actual spend by nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison in table 2, the number of pupils in all schools have been used as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN. This is due to the fact that much SEN provision relates to pupils without a statement, particularly provision in non-special schools. The use of all pupils gives a fairer comparison of the relative differences between LAs, fully reflecting the different approaches taken by them in providing SEN services. By using all pupils, however, the data would suggest a lower SEN expenditure level per pupil than is actually the case.
- The 'schools budget', as set out in schedule 2 of the 2003 Regulations, covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises expenditure on services for which the LA retains funding centrally. These services include special educational needs (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs (SEN).
- Delegated expenditure derives from funding that is allocated directly to the schools by each local authority. Non-delegated expenditure derives from funding held centrally by the local authority and spent on behalf of the schools.
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LA functions involved in special educational needs, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs and exclude home to school transport costs.

### Quality

Wales collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two unitary authorities. We publish a detailed [quality report](#) on Welsh Local Government Finance statistics.

### Rounding

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

## Accessing the data

Much of the data behind the charts and tables shown in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most up to date and detailed official data in Wales).

[statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue/Education](https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue/Education)

→Local Government →Finance →Revenue →Education

## Further information

Statistics on education expenditure are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

## Feedback

We actively encourage feedback of our statistics. If you have any comments or queries or require further information, then please contact us using the details below:

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## National Statistics status

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.



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