



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Chief Financial Officer,
Welsh County and County Borough Councils
Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners
Welsh Combined Fire Authorities
Welsh National Park Authorities

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Date: 02 March 2026

Dear Colleague,

Revenue Account budget returns (RA), 2026-27

We will shortly be sending an email to our contact at your authority containing a link to a spreadsheet for the above return. This spreadsheet should be returned by email to The Welsh Government by

3 April 2026.

Please note that we **no longer require a certified hard copy** of the form.

This information is collected under section 139A of the [1988 Local Government Finance Act \(UK legislation\)](#) (as inserted by paragraph 68 of Schedule 5 to the [Local Government and Housing Act 1989 \(UK legislation\)](#)).

1. Completing forms: important information

Authorities should adhere to the definitions of the lines on the forms, so that the information given accurately reflects the circumstances of the authority.

Please check the interactive validation warnings throughout the forms, and especially check and enter reasons in response to warnings on the RA validations sheet, which should reduce the need for us to contact you.

General comments and suggestions may be entered on the comments sheet.

It is imperative that all local authorities **strictly adhere** to this deadline as these forms provide essential data for a number of different purposes. Authorities are asked to provide their **best estimates by the deadline**. Amendments to forms may be made at a later stage.

2. Uses of the information

The figures reported on the RA returns will be published in the Welsh Governments Statistical First Release in June. The education data will also form the basis of an annual statistical release "Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs Provision" and an annual report on "Local Authority Budgeted Expenditure on Schools".

The returns provide essential data for a number of different purposes connected to local government finance activity. The information will be used to calculate service totals for Indicator Based Assessments.

The information is also used extensively in response to Assembly Questions, in dealing with ministerial correspondence, and for more general monitoring purposes.

The information provided on the RA returns will be supplied to CIPFA, to form the basis of their publication "Finance and General Statistics"; to the Welsh Local Government Association; and to other government departments, for example in the production of National Accounts; and other requests for information by local authorities; their associations and the general public.

3. Contact details

Please send a copy of the completed spreadsheet by 3 April 2026 and any other correspondence and enquiries, in the first instance to: lgfs.transfer@gov.wales

Phone enquiries

Jack Tennant: 03000 259221

Frank Kelly: 03000 255673

Postal address

Local Government Finance Statistics

Knowledge and Analytical Services

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Kind regards,

Anthony Newby

Local Government Finance Statistics / Ystadegau Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol,

Knowledge and Analytical Services / Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi,

Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru