

12 November 2021

Dear

ATISN 15601 - Welsh language budget

Thank you for your request, which I received on 18 October. You asked for:

- 1. The budget for all expenditure this year 2021-2022, that is the Direct Expenditure in All aspects of Developing and Preserving the Welsh Language, and**
- 2. Information on the Indirect Expenditure that is expected to be passed on to the public by Public Bodies and Private Organisations**

Our response

I have structured my response below in two separate sections to reflect the different elements of your request:

The budget for all expenditure this year 2021-2022, that is the Direct Expenditure in All aspects of Developing and Preserving the Welsh Language

In 2017, the Welsh Government (WG) set out its ambitions for the Welsh language in its Welsh language strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#). It has two main targets as follows:

- *The number of Welsh speakers to reach 1 million by 2050.*
- *The percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily, and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, to increase from 10 per cent (in 2013–15) to 20 per cent by 2050.*

Before summer recess this year, the WG published its second [Work Programme](#) to support the strategy for the term of this Senedd (2021-26). In order to deliver *Cymraeg 2050*, the Welsh Government has allocated a budget in 2021-22 of £36.977m. Activities delivered through this funding are separated into three funding streams and include the following:

Education: £12.675m

Here are some examples of how this budget is allocated:

- Mudiad Meithrin has been awarded £3.031m in order to deliver a wide-ranging programme of support to its existing membership (over 400 Cylchoedd Meithrin and day nurseries attended by more than 12,700 children,

as well as a further 400 Cylchoedd Ti a Fi parent and toddler groups). Funding will also allow for the delivery of a programme focused specifically on rapidly expanding Welsh-medium early years provision in response to the aims of *Cymraeg 2050*, which is on track to establish 40 new Cylchoedd Meithrin.

- Mudiad Meithrin are also contracted to deliver the *Cymraeg for Kids programme* (£0.730m) – a programme that aims to increase the number of children in Welsh-medium education. This is done by providing support to families to introduce and use Welsh at home via a range of free activities to parents and young children.
- The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the Coleg) has been awarded £6.143m in order to provide an independent overview, to undertake strategic planning and management to support the development of Welsh-medium higher education (HE) and fund HE development and the Welsh-medium scholarship scheme.
- This budget will also fund work to commission educational resources (£3.141m) to support the teaching and learning of Welsh, other subjects through the medium of Welsh, as well as bilingual resources to support the curriculum and its qualifications.

Welsh Language: £20.949m

This budget supports various activities supporting the Welsh language – we include a few examples below:

- We grant fund a number of organisations to promote the Welsh language in the community to a total of £5.299m during this financial year. For example:
 - The Mentrau Iaith has been awarded £2.492m to promote and facilitate activities through the medium of Welsh at a community level.
 - The Eisteddfod Genedlaethol has been awarded £0.603m as a contribution towards the organisation's central staffing and project costs.
 - The Urdd has been awarded £0.862m to deliver Welsh-medium activities to young people outside of formal school settings to help them to develop into rounded individuals, enabling them to play a constructive role in society.
- Funding is also allocated to the National Centre for Learning Welsh (£2.5m) to deliver provision that allows adults to learn Welsh, to improve their skills and to create provision targeted at particular sectors of the workplace.

Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC): £3.353m

The WLC received a budget of £3.207m revenue, amongst other activities, to exercise the statutory functions of the Welsh Language Measure including the setting, monitoring and enforcement of the Welsh language standards, as well as implementing the Welsh language scheme adopted under the Welsh Language Act 1993. Alongside this funding, the WLC has received a £0.116m non-cash budget and a capital budget (£30,000) to upgrade the existing IT system and make long-term efficiencies from reduced maintenance costs.

Additional funding for 2021-22

In 2021-22, additional funding of £2.220m has been allocated from the COVID-19 response reserve to support COVID-19 restart and recovery proposals relating to Welsh language projects as follows:

- £2.200m to support the delivery of a [Programme for Government](#) commitment to expand the Pupil Immersion Programme. This funding will help address the demand for late immersion provision, or the need to incorporate immersion teaching methodologies into mainstream schooling exasperated by COVID-19.
- £200,000 to the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol to continue to support COVID recovery. The National Eisteddfod is an iconic Welsh language cultural event that not only celebrates our unique Welsh culture but also embraces diversity within Wales. This funding will support the Eisteddfod to rebuild, particularly after substantial loss of income and the need to reduce their staffing levels as a direct consequence of COVID-19.

Welsh language policy is mainstreamed across all Welsh Government activity – it relates to town and country planning, education, and the economy to name a few. Therefore many Ministers and departments undertake work to ensure that *Cymraeg 2050* is successfully delivered from within their own budgets.

Information on the Indirect Expenditure that is expected to be passed on to the public by Public Bodies and Private Organisations having to implement and carry out Legislation from the Assembly .e.g. New Welsh Medium Schools , bi-lingual correspondence from Public Sector Organisations and Private Bodies , bi- lingual Signage in Shops and Highways, bi- lingual phone answering facilities

Successive Welsh Governments have been committed to promoting the use of the Welsh language, and wish to ensure people have every opportunity to use their Welsh, whether to read it or speak it, and that they can do so without having to ask for a Welsh language service every time.

To support this policy aim, the Government introduced legislation, The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which received support from all parties. I attach a link to this legislation: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/contents>.

The Measure confirms that the Welsh language has official status in Wales. It also makes provision about promoting the use of the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. As part of this, the Measure introduces a system of duties, known as Welsh Language Standards.

A number of public bodies in Wales are under duties to provide services to the public in Welsh. These bodies include the Welsh Ministers, local authorities, local health boards, Police forces and Universities.

The Welsh Ministers are responsible for making the legislation, which must be agreed by a vote at the Welsh Parliament before it becomes law. We have made 5

different pieces of legislation (regulations) to place Welsh Language Standards on organisations. The relevant regulations can be accessed here: <https://law.gov.wales/welsh-language-standards> .

The Standards place duties on bodies to provide services in Welsh for example dealing with correspondence, answering the telephone and in relation to the signage they display.

The Welsh Language Commissioner is responsible for deciding which of the Standards in the legislation should apply to an individual body, for monitoring compliance with Standards and giving advice to bodies on the Welsh Language Standards.

If you would like more information, please contact the Commissioner's office at this address post@welshlanguagecommissioner.wales .

You have asked for information on the Indirect Expenditure that is expected to be passed on to the public by Public Bodies and Private Organisations. To clarify, please note that we are only able to provide information in relation to the Welsh Government. We do not hold any information that relates to Welsh councils and / or other public bodies.

The Welsh language is mainstreamed into all Welsh Government policy areas – it is an intrinsic part of all that we do. It is therefore not possible to calculate the amount of money spent by the Welsh Government in providing correspondence in Welsh to residential addresses as any such correspondence drafted by Welsh Government would be shared bilingually.

In relation to highways, road and pedestrian signs, all road and pedestrian signs created by the Welsh Government have been created bilingually for many years, in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and before that, in line with the Government's Welsh Language Scheme. It is therefore not possible to calculate the cost of ensuring that the Welsh language is included on all such signs, in comparison with English only signs.

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.

Yn gywir / Sincerely,