

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 15717



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government  
15 December 2021

Dear ,

## **ATISN 15717 – Seren programme funding and outcomes**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 26 November 2021. You asked for four pieces of information related to the Seren Programme:

1. Total Welsh Government expenditure on the Seren programme since the start of the programme in 2015 (with a yearly breakdown),
2. How many students on the programme have gone to a) Oxford University b) Cambridge University c) International (non-UK) Universities since the start of the programme in 2015,
3. A yearly breakdown for each of the 'regional hubs' on how many pupils from each hub has gone to a) Oxford and b) Cambridge Universities since Seren started in 2015 and
4. A yearly breakdown on how much money Welsh Government has allocated to each of the 'regional hubs' since Seren started in 2015.

### **Our response**

A copy of the information we hold is enclosed.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that not all of the information you require is held by the Welsh Government.

1. Total Welsh Government expenditure on the Seren programme since the start of the programme in 2015 (with a yearly breakdown) - is detailed below in Table 1.

**Table 1.**

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Total funding</b>
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019-20	2020-21	
<b>Grant Funding</b>	£ 300,000	£ 125,406	£ 179,500	£ 940,607	£ 941,325	£ 889,164	£ 3,376,002
<b>Operational costs</b>	£ 358,012	£ 638,732	£ 539,889	£ 649,834	£ 790,519	£ 674,614	£ 3,651,600
	£ 658,012	£ 764,138	£ 719,389	£1,590,441	£1,731,844	£ 1,563,778	

We do not hold details of individual students or their university of study after they complete the Seren programme. UCAS will hold this data.

Likewise, Welsh Government do not hold data on individual students in each hub or where they choose to study after they complete the Seren programme. The individual hubs may hold this data. Contact details for individual hubs can be found on our website:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/blended-learning/seren-distance-learning/#seren-hubs>

A detailed breakdown of the annual funding per hub is shown in Table 2 below. It should be noted that financial year 2018/19 saw the first full year of delivery across Wales where each hub received a funding allocation. Prior to this, the policy was under development. Powys, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot originally piloted Seren as a consortium then separated in 2018-19 as seen in table 2.

**Table 2.**

<b>Hub funding</b>	<b>Total per annum</b>					
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Bridgend	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 9,101	£ 17,859	£ 48,385
Cardiff	£ 50,000	£ 4,000	£ 25,000	£ 130,273	£ 85,009	£ 85,090
Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire	£ 50,000	£ 0	£ 25,000	£ 123,010	£ 101,673	£ 99,430
Ceredigion	£ 0	£ 50,000	£ 0	£ 81,192	£ 60,119	£ 52,175
Conwy and Denbighshire	£ 50,000	£ 13,751	£ 0	£ 37,599	£ 69,632	£ 81,105
EAS	£ 0	£ 2,000	£ 55,000	£ 134,700	£ 153,400	£ 96,545
Gwynedd and Anglesey	£ 50,000	£ 0	£ 14,500	£ 40,913	£ 72,716	£ 75,935
Powys	£ 50,000	£ 3,245	£ 5,000	£ 51,408	£ 37,229	£ 47,825
RCT and Merthyr	£ 50,000	£ 610	£ 30,000	£ 85,249	£ 90,650	£ 73,880
Swansea	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 81,460	£ 78,943	£ 53,330
Vale of Glamorgan	£ 0	£ 51,800	£ 0	£ 78,593	£ 67,160	£ 48,055
Wrexham and Flintshire	£ 0	£ 0	£ 25,000	£ 40,752	£ 69,707	£ 73,000
NPT	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 46,357	£ 37,229	£ 54,409
	<b>£ 300,000</b>	<b>£ 125,406</b>	<b>£ 179,500</b>	<b>£ 940,607</b>	<b>£ 941,325</b>	<b>£ 889,164</b>

**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](mailto: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