

08 November 2022

Dear

**ATISN 16815**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 31 October 2022. You asked for information regarding the collection of biometric data by schools in Wales.

### **Our response**

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

#### Information on how many maintained schools in Wales collect children's biometric data.

The Welsh Government does not hold current information on this. The only data held is from 2014 and, at that time, local authorities confirmed that 104 schools in Wales were collecting biometric information to provide services to learners. This information may not be an accurate reflection of the current situation.

#### Information on how many children attending maintained schools in Wales have had their biometric data collected.

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

#### Information on where biometric data is held after it's been collected.

The Welsh Government is not directly involved with the use of biometric systems within schools but has published a [protection of biometric information: guidance for schools and colleges](#) on the safe collection and storage of biometric data. As biometric data is a special category data, as listed in Article 9(1) of the UK GDPR, schools that collect biometric data must store the data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

#### Information on who collects the biometric data.

Schools who collect biometric data are responsible, as data controllers, for collecting the data.

### **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: [Freedomofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedomofinformation@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