

14 March 2023

Dear/Annwyl

## **ATISN 17157 – Cost of Bilingualism**

Thank you for your requests for information. In your first correspondence you asked for:

- i. **information on how much it costs the Welsh Government to produce everything in two languages.**

You stated that you were “referring specifically to the waste of producing two copies,” and that you “do not want to know how much is spent on the language as a whole as some of that is acceptable.”

and also, whether;

- ii. **anything has been evaluated with regard to the cost in councils or private enterprise?**

In your second request you asked:

- iii. **What is the cost of administration of the Welsh Assembly Government?**

I have structured my response below to reflect the different elements of your request.

### **Our response**

- i. **We do not hold information on the cost of producing everything in two languages.**

In 2017, the Welsh Government 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.*

To support these policy aims, the Welsh Government is committed to promoting bilingualism and the use of the Welsh language and wishes to ensure that its status as an official language is reflected across Wales.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 made Welsh an official language in Wales. This means it must be treated no less favourably than English. Welsh Language Standards outline the statutory requirements when providing services in Welsh to the public and are legally binding requirements which applied to Welsh Government from 30 March 2016.

The Welsh Government is committed to complying with its legal duties. This work is mainstreamed across the organisation and is a part of the day-to-day work of staff.

Your e-mail makes reference to correspondence being in Welsh and in English. We believe it is important that 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.

The Standards place duties upon bodies in relation to the services they provide to the public in Welsh. The duties vary dependent on the nature of the service in question for example in relation to correspondence – generally bodies are under duties to respond to Welsh correspondence in Welsh, and when sending the same correspondence to several persons (e.g. a circular letter), they must send a Welsh language version at the same time as they send an English language version. However, when corresponding specifically with an individual for the first time, bodies can establish a person's language choice and correspond accordingly thereafter.

Advising bodies on how to provide services in Welsh and monitoring compliance with Welsh Language Standards are matters for the Welsh Language Commissioner. If you wish to seek further information, please contact the Commissioner's office: [post@welshlanguagecommissioner.wales](mailto:post@welshlanguagecommissioner.wales)

**ii. has anything been evaluated with regard to the cost in councils or private enterprise?**

We do not hold any information that relates to expenditure by Welsh councils or private enterprises.

However, a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was undertaken by Welsh Ministers when preparing the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 which makes Welsh language standards applicable to local authorities. This document was subsequently published on the Senedd's website.

The RIA can be seen at this link: [sub-ld10115-em-e.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#)

**iii. The cost of administration of the Welsh Assembly Government.**

I have included links below to web pages which include detailed information on Welsh Government budgets and accounts. The Central Services and Administration Main Expenditure Group outlines the running costs of the Welsh Government, and the accounts outline our financial performance and position; how we use our

resources; our strategy and achievements; our objectives; and, our governance arrangements.

[Welsh Government consolidated annual accounts | GOV.WALES](#)

[Welsh Government budgets | GOV.WALES](#)

I hope you find the information useful.

### **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/Yn gywir,