

4 April 2023

Dear

ATISN 17268 – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 13 March 2023. You have requested as follows:

1. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people are living in Wales?
 - i. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people are accommodated by local authorities in Wales?
 - ii. How many unaccompanied young asylum seekers are currently care leavers under the age of 25 supported by local authorities in Wales?
 - iii. How many unaccompanied children have been transferred to local authorities in Wales through the National Transfer Scheme 2022-2023?
 - iv. Is there a referral pathway in place in Wales, which is used to record when unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people arrive in Wales, and used to track support provided to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people from arrival to settlement?
2. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people living in Wales are accessing the Belong Project?
3. Where in Wales is support provided by the Belong Project available?
4. What support is available to help unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people living in Wales with understanding and engaging with the asylum process? By this, you mean support such as:
 - Helping the child or young person to obtain legal advice and representation
 - Keeping the child informed of legal and other proceedings
 - Liaising with lawyers, social workers, healthcare professionals, police and Home Office officials on behalf of the child
 - Working with young people to help them develop statements to support their asylum claims.
 - Attending Home Office appointments with the child
 - Providing young people with holistic support to enable integration, continued advice and emotional support.
- i. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people living in Wales accessed support for understanding and engaging with the asylum process from 2020-21 and 2021-22?

- ii. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people living in Wales are currently accessing support for understanding and engaging with the asylum process?
5. What support is available for unaccompanied young people after they have been granted refugee status? By this you mean support for:
- Accessing education, employment or training
 - Accessing financial support, such as benefits
 - Accessing health services, both physical and mental

Our response

I have enclosed the information the Welsh Government holds within the attached Annex A. Please note, the Welsh Government does not hold all the information you have requested. Details of the organisations which I believe will hold the additional information that you are seeking is also enclosed within Annex A.

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.

Yours sincerely,