

Dear

ATISN 17302 – Request for Information regarding unregistered placements for children and young people.

Thank you for your request for information received on 16/03/2023. You asked for the following information:

1. The number of children placed in unregistered placements for more than 3 days across all Welsh Local Authorities over the course of the last 6 months.
2. The age range of children in unregistered placements – the youngest to the oldest.
3. Which Local Authorities are using unregistered placements.
4. The action CIW take in relation to placements of more than 3 days, and how this is monitored.

Our Response

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you requested held by CIW is as follows:

1. The number of children placed in unregistered placements for more than 3 days across all Welsh Local Authorities over the course of the last 6 months.

Local Authorities in Wales have notified CIW of the following number of children placed in unregistered placements for more than 3 days within the 6 months from 01/09/2022 to 28/02/2023: 58

2. The age range of children notified to CIW in unregistered placements – the youngest to the oldest.

The ages of children placed in unregistered placements notified to CIW for this 6-month period ranged from 9 to 17 years.

3. Which Local Authorities are using unregistered placements.

Local Authorities notified to CIW who have used unregistered placements between 01/09/2022 to 28/02/2023
Anglesey
Bridgend
Caerphilly
Cardiff
Carmarthenshire
Ceredigion
Conwy
Denbighshire
Flintshire
Merthyr Tydfil
Monmouthshire

Neath Port Talbot
Newport
Pembrokeshire
Powys
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Swansea
Torfaen
Wrexham

4. The action CIW take in relation to placements of more than 3 days, and how this is monitored.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) receives information from a range of sources in relation to services which may be operating without registration. Upon receipt of this information, CIW carries out enquiries to determine whether the service requires registration.

Where there is sufficient information to suggest a service is operating without registration, it is referred to an Operating without Registration (OWR) Enforcement Panel to determine what action CIW needs to take. Where a service is determined operating without registration, CIW requires the provider to apply for registration within 15 working days or cease operating.

CIW may request further information, including weekly updates on the child's welfare and what plans the local authority has to secure a registered placement.

If an application to register is not received and the unregistered service continues to operate after 15 days, the provider is given a final opportunity to cease operating or apply to register the service within 10 working days.

Services that remain operational, without applying to register, are referred to CIW's Enforcement Board. The role of the Enforcement Board is to consider whether to commence a criminal investigation into the service operating without registration.

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

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 the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,