

15 November 2023

Dear

ATISN 19207 PA – Period Poverty

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 October 2023. You asked for:

1. Information on how the Welsh Government's period dignity grant has improved school attendance for girls aged 10-18 since 2017.
2. All letters and emails received by Jenny Rathbone MS from the 1st of March 2023 to the 24th of October 2023 on the issue of period poverty.

Our response

1. We do not hold statistics on school absence levels due to period related issues, so we do not have statistical evidence on whether the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Grant improved school attendance for girls aged 10-18 since 2017. However, the evaluation of the Period Dignity Grant, published on 26 October 2023, does show evidence that free period products and information provided via the grant, made it less likely that learners would miss out on school, sports or other social activities when menstruating.

I attach links to the evaluation report below (English and Welsh versions). Please refer to section 4.3.4

<https://www.gov.wales/evaluation-welsh-governments-period-dignity-grant>

<https://www.llyw.cymru/gwerthusiad-o-grant-urddas-yn-ystod-mislif-llywodraeth-cymru>

2. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. As Jenny Rathbone is an MS rather than a Minister a separate request would need to go to her office for their recorded information. Please note, however, that individual MSs are not subject to the FoI Act.

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.

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely