

30/01/2024

Dear

ATISN 20057 Managing Welsh Public Money

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 5/1/24. You asked for:

Guidance documents issued to Local Authorities in Wales regarding the methods used to manage Welsh Public Monies when developing Local Authority policy, projects and programmes using public funds.

Our response

Both Managing Public Monies (MPM) and Managing Welsh Public Monies (MWPM) refer to the principles being applicable to the management of resources in 'public sector' organisations. The scope of public sector includes Central Government, Public Corporations and Local Government. However, MPM and MWPM are principally requirements for Central Government and Public Corporations, as the requirement to comply is set out in the chain of appointment of Principal Accounting Officer (by HMT to Welsh Government) Additional Accounting Officers, and Accounting Officers of Central Government and Public Corporation entities.

Local Government is a separate sector within the public sector, with its own accounting & governance requirements set out principally in statute, including the requirement for the appointment of a Chief Finance Officer (known as a Section 151 Officer referring to the section in the Local Government Act 1972 which originally set out the requirement) and their responsibilities with regard to the fiduciary management of public funds.

The broad principles set out in MWPM for the appropriate management of public funds apply to Local Authorities, but they are not explicitly bound by it – as their S51 officers are not appointed by the Principal Accounting Officer.

Where hypothecated grants are issued to Local Government from Welsh Government, the grant terms and conditions set out the management principles to be applied.

We have identified some grants issued to Local Authorities where a five case business model was required. Links to a selection of these are stated below:

[Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme | GOV.WALES](#)

<https://www.gov.wales/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm-business-case-guidance>

<https://www.gov.wales/better-business-cases-investment-decision-making-framework>

However, the majority of grants we issue do not require this and instead are an application and assessment process. The scale of this varies depending on the amount of grant offered.

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