20/02/2025

Dear

ATISN 24413 - FOI request: Edtech and AI

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19/02/2025. You asked for:

1. Information held by Education Wales listing by name, which Apps and AI software are currently being used in schools in Wales.
2. Department for Education's assessment of what proportion of school budgets in Wales are spent on apps and AI software.
3. Information relating to any risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis the Education Wales has carried out on the use of AI software in schools.

Our response

I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

Schools in Wales are responsible for managing their individual digital environments including any apps or software they use for the purpose of delivering education. This includes proportioning budget to digital spend.

All schools are required to comply with UK's data protection legislation as well as adhering to their statutory safeguarding obligations. To support schools to understand, manage and implement their digital environment, by themselves or with their Education Technology Support Partner, the Welsh Government has published Education Digital Standards that provide guidance on the planning, management and use of digital tools and services within education.

While the Welsh Government does not hold the specific documentation you have requested, it is important to note that the Hwb platform is already available to every learner and practitioner within maintained schools in Wales.

Through the Hwb platform all maintained schools in Wales can access a range of bilingual digital services to support teaching and learning through the Curriculum for Wales.

The Welsh Government prioritises the security and safeguarding of all Hwb users. The platform adheres to rigorous standards to protect sensitive data, ensuring a safe and reliable digital learning environment. To find out more about the level of due diligence that is undertaken by the Welsh Government to ensure digital services are fit for purpose and compliant visit our Trust Centre.

In January 2025, the Welsh Government commissioned Estyn to lead a review into how generative AI (gen AI) is currently used in schools across Wales. The review will

explore the opportunities, challenges and impact of gen AI in schools and settings. The review is currently underway and Estyn will publish a publicly available report in due course.

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