

10/03/2025

Dear

**ATISN 24354 – Welsh Government trips**

Thank you for your request which I received on 10 February 2025. You asked for:

Since May 2021 -

- Have any Education Ministers visited any country other than Wales in the capacity as Education Minister? If so, where did they visit, when was the trip, and what was the purpose of the trip? Please also provide a breakdown of the costs of the trips.
- Have any Welsh Government Officials visited any country other than Wales in their capacity as an Official in the education department? If so, where did they visit, when was the trip, and what was the purpose of the trip? Please also provide a breakdown of the costs of the trips.

Some of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of s21 or s22 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA). Section 21(1) of the FOIA says information is exempt from disclosure where that information is reasonably accessible to the requester without resort to a FoI request, whilst s22(1) exempts information which is intended for future publication. Details of Ministerial overseas travel is published annually (by financial year) in line with the Ministerial code, which can be found here - [Ministerial code | GOV.WALES](#).

Your request covers the period of the 6<sup>th</sup> Senedd, for which three Welsh Ministers have held or currently hold education portfolios, as follows:

- From 13 May 2021 – Minister for Education and Welsh Language (Jeremy Miles, MS)
- From 21 March 2024 – Cabinet Secretary for Education (Lynne Neagle, MS)
- From 11 September 2024 – Minister for Further and Higher Education (Vikki Howells, MS)

Any overseas Ministerial travel for the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Minister for Further and Higher Education, during the 6<sup>th</sup> Senedd, will be published here -

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-08/ministerial-code-information-publication-6th-senedd-august-2024.pdf>

The published information covers the following where the total cost of the visit is £500 or more:

- Minister
- Departure date
- Destination
- Purpose of trip
- Mode of travel
- Number of accompanying officials

- Total cost of travel and accommodation (£) for the trip for both Ministers and accompanying officials

For the remaining information you have requested, my preliminary assessment estimates that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to provide information that is not already published in line with the Ministerial code. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In order to provide you with the remaining information that you have requested the following searches would be required:

1. Official overseas visits by Welsh Government Education Ministers, since May 2021 for which the total cost is under £500, to include location, visit dates, purpose of trip and a summary of costs per trip. To also include details of the number of officials travelling with the Ministers and the costs of those accompanying officials;
2. Official visits by Welsh Government Education Ministers, since May 2021, to England, Scotland or Northern Ireland, for visits of any cost, to include location, visit dates, purpose of trip and a summary of costs per trip. To also include details of the number of officials travelling with the Ministers and the costs of those accompanying officials;
3. Official visits by Welsh Government officials from education Divisions undertaken without Ministers (and so in addition to the official visits captured in searches 1 and 2 above), since May 2021, to both overseas countries and to England, Scotland or Northern Ireland. To include location, visit dates, purpose of trip and a summary of costs per trip.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

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 e-mail: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto: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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely