

27 March 2025

Dear

ATISN 24459 - 2025-02-27 – Request for information from the Welsh Government relating to the funding of Domestic Abuse Services for older people in Wales.

Information requested.

Thank you for your request which I received on 4 March 2025. You asked for:

1. A detailed breakdown of all commissioned services for domestic abuse and older people by the Welsh Government from 1st April 2021 – 31st January 2025.
2. Copies of any agreements, contracts or memoranda of understanding related to the provision of such funding.
3. A summary of the criteria and processes used to determine the allocation of these funds.
4. Copies of the minutes of the last three meetings of the VAWDASV National Partnership Board.
5. Any available statistics held by the Welsh Government on who is accessing commissioned services for older people from 1st April 2021 – 31st January 2025.

Our response

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed. These pertain to the following items you requested:

Item 3. All applications received for Capital Funding are processed in three stages:

- Stage 1 (Item 3.2) is a check undertaken by Finance to determine if the bid includes all the required documentation to proceed to the next stage.
- Stage 2 (Items 3.3 and 3.4) All those applications that passed stage 1 are considered against the matrixes identified and scored, independently, by Finance and Policy officials.
- Stage 3 (Item 3.1) All applications that have reached the required level of evidence are considered by the scrutiny panel who make the final decision over which are approved.

Enclosed documents:

Item 3.1 – Capital Spend Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

Item 3.2 – Stage 1 Applications Assessment Form

Item 3.3 – Stage 2 Assessment Form Matrixes

Item 3.4 – Stage 2 Assessment Form – Scored Assessment Sheet

Item 4. Enclosed documents:

Item 4.1 – Minutes of the NPB held 24.01.24

Item 4.2 – Minutes of the NPB held 18.07.24

Item 4.3 – Minutes of the NPB held 24.10.24

NB. The minutes for the last meeting, dated 22 February 2025 have not been approved and therefore cannot be released.

The names of the individuals have been redacted in accordance with Section 40 of the Act. As release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle. It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the remainder of the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government:

Item 1. The Welsh Government did not commission services for domestic abuse and older people from 1st April 2021 – 31st January 2025.

Item 2. As a result, there are no agreements, contracts or memoranda of understanding related to the provision of such funding.

Item 5. The Welsh Government does not hold statistics on who is accessing commissioned services for older people from 1st April 2021 – 31st January 2025.

Whilst the Welsh Government does not fund any domestic abuse services directly for older people, which is the nature of your FOI, it is a key principle under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy that access to support for victims and survivors is intersectional. Services delivering with Welsh Government money must be person-centred and equitable in their approach.

This means that several specialist organisations across Wales receive Welsh Government funding to deliver domestic abuse or sexual violence support that will support older people as part of the whole population. Given the holistic nature of gender-based violence, there may also be funding issued to organisations that offer support on a wide range of issues that older people face, with domestic abuse or sexual violence being only one part of that.

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.of.information@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