

Dear

ATISN 24600 – Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 31 March 2025. You requested the following:

1. How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), aged 17 and under, are or were in the care of Welsh local authorities (so are children looked-after (CLA)) for each year from 2015 up to and including 2024?
2. How many former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), aged 18 to 21, are or were in receipt of support from a Welsh local authority (so are former relevant children (FRC)) for each year from 2015 up to and including 2024?

Our Response

Data relating to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), aged 17 and under who were in the care of Welsh local authorities from 2015 to 2024 is as follows:

Local Authority	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Isle of Anglesey	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10
Gwynedd	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	15
Conwy	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	20	15
Denbighshire	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	15
Flintshire	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	15	25
Wrexham	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5
Powys	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	15	20
Ceredigion	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	15
Pembrokeshire	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	15
Carmarthenshire	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	30
Swansea	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	[k]	10	5	[k]	5	10
Neath Port Talbot	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	15	15
Bridgend	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10
Vale of Glamorgan	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10
Cardiff	15	15	20	20	30	35	30	35	45	15
Rhondda Cynon Taff	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	10
Merthyr Tydfil	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10
Caerphilly	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10	15
Blaenau Gwent	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	5	10
Torfaen	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10
Monmouthshire	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	[k]	10	15
Newport	5	10	10	15	20	20	15	25	30	30
Wales	30	40	55	70	75	80	65	110	260	330

Source: Children Looked After Census, Welsh Government

When considering the above data, the following notes should be considered:

- The above information excludes children looked after exclusively under a series of short breaks.
- All figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Due to rounding, the differences between some columns may not add to the total figure given.

Where there are fewer than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed and replaced by the symbol [k].

- The data has been labelled as official statistics in development following the commencement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act in April 2016.
- Where an UASC has multiple periods of care, only the latest period has been counted.

The Welsh Government does not collect data relating to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), aged 18 to 21, who are or were in receipt of support from a Welsh local authority between 2015 and 2024.

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,