



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

11 July 2025

Dear ,

ATISN 24806

Information requested

Thank you for your request which was received on 15 June 2025. You asked for:

1. Number of Welsh Students, due to start undergraduate studies in September 2025, impacted by a recent Welsh Government change to the 'designated' status of franchise / partner providers, resulting in the rescinding of Student Finance Support previously agreed.
2. What proportion of the UK specialist institutions / franchise delivery partners impacted by the above have a creative industries focus.

Our response

1. The Welsh Government does not hold the number of undergraduate students due to start a course in September 2025 with any provider.

The Welsh Government has not changed its policy or regulations in relation to designated courses for higher education statutory student support. The current designation policy and guidance has been operational since 2019. A recent compliance exercise has highlighted institutions that have not been operating in accordance with the requirements for Welsh student support. The Student Loans Company (SLC) have informed us that they have received 99 2025/26 academic year applications for student support for Welsh students seeking funding to start a course highlighted as part of this exercise.

Student finance, as awarded by Student Finance Wales (SFW) to those applications has not been rescinded.

2. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

The Course Management Service administered by the Student Loans Company that underpins student finance applications is not designed to collect sector level information. The subject matter of the course does not contribute to the requirements for course designation or student eligibility.

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