

1 July 2025

Dear

ATISN 24793

Thank you for your request which I received on 11 June 2025. You asked for the following information:

1. A list of grants to voluntary organisations made by the Welsh Government in the financial year 2024/25.
2. A list of grants to voluntary organisations scheduled to be made by the Welsh Government in the current financial year.
3. A list of funds for research studies made by the Welsh Government in the financial year 2024/25 with a brief description of each study being funded.
4. A list of funds for research studies scheduled to be made by the Welsh Government in the current financial year with a brief description of each study being funded.

Our response

Parts 1 and 2 of your request

I have reached the conclusion that it will cost more than the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to consider your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

The information on Welsh Government grants you have requested in Part 1 of your request, is at a level which is below our standard financial reporting flows for budgetary and activity reporting. Welsh Government financial systems hold grants by sector for the 'third sector', this is not the same scope as the 'voluntary sector'. In order to provide analysis of the 'voluntary sector' would require clarification of the scope of 'voluntary sector organisations you wish information on, as that category is not a searchable term in our finance system.

Further, the information requested for one financial year (2024-25) will have involved many different types of grants funded by different Groups across the Welsh Government covering a high volume of voluntary/third sector organisations, retained on multiple data systems.

An initial scoping exercise was undertaken by a member of staff on our Welsh Government financial database. This is the corporate repository for the majority of payment information created and received by Welsh Government Officials in the course of their duties that must be retained for business or historical purposes.

It was identified that there are approximately 4,000 lines of data for a financial year (2024/25) of grant funding to the third/voluntary sector. Further filtering would be required to

extract and summarise the information for about 400 voluntary sector organisations that received funding for the selected financial year, with an additional manual exercise needed across all Welsh Government departments to verify whether the information held can be released or is exempt from disclosure. The time estimated to locate, extract, retrieve and verify this information would therefore exceed the limit.

Because question 1 alone exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. For example, if you were to provide a list of the voluntary sector organisations you are specifically interested to receive information upon, that could bring searches for information within the appropriate limit. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request. Please be as specific and focused as possible.

In addition, you may also wish to note the Welsh Government publishes expenditure data for payments over £25,000 information which can be found here: [Welsh Government expenditure over £25,000 | GOV.WALES](#) which may answer this first part of your request.

With regard to Part 2 of your request and your requested information on scheduled grants to voluntary/third sector organisations for the current financial year 2025/26, Welsh Government's budget activity reporting and analysis is not at the individual grant scheme level, and even where activity analysis is available in our finance system, this may not represent the total of the grant to be paid, and as noted above would not be searchable by 'voluntary sector organisation'.

As the information is not held centrally it would take an exercise to locate, extract and retrieve information from across Welsh Government. This would involve contacting Grant Managers across all the Groups within Welsh Government to determine anticipated grant payments.

I anticipate it may take longer but just an initial estimate of contacting grant managers who would then need to undertake an exercise to locate each grant document would take at least 10 minutes (to locate, extract and retrieve all information) and therefore would take in excess of 24 hours (for question 2 alone).

Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain – for example specifying which voluntary organisations. Any reformulated question will be treated as a new request for information.

Parts 3 and 4 of your request (request for clarification)

To assist our searches, I would be grateful if you could provide further clarification on the information sought.

Whilst Welsh Government may on occasion be involved in funding academic studies, we do not in general fund academic research studies but rather commission work under contract directly for Welsh Government needs. For example, a research study in this context would

be the Millenium Cohort Study, whereas commissioned research would be for things like the evaluation of specific Welsh Government policy interventions.

On this basis I would be grateful if you could provide further clarification on the information you are seeking in using the term 'research study'. Please note, without further clarification we will be unable to progress this part of your request.

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 e-mail: 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

Website: 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