

25 June 2025

Dear

ATISN 24796 - Requirement to Use Hwb System for EdTech Funding Eligibility

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 11 June 2025. You have requested information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of the Hwb platform in relation to EdTech funding for schools in Wales. Specifically, you have asked for details on the following:

Whether there is any formal or informal requirement for schools in Wales to use the Hwb digital learning platform to qualify for EdTech funding provided or administered by the Welsh Government?

If such a requirement exists, the policy documents, guidance notes, communications, effective date, and details of any exemptions.

If no such requirement exists, whether the use of Hwb is encouraged, recommended, or incentivised in relation to EdTech funding.

Our response

The Welsh Government EdTech funding is calculated and allocated to local authorities using a pupil-based formula to ensure that distribution is equitable across local authorities. Local authorities must meet funding conditions, which includes managing and delivering local change programmes which complement the delivery of the strategic aims of the [Hwb programme](#) and specifically that schools meet and align to the national [education digital standards](#).

It is the responsibility of local authorities to utilise the funding effectively and appropriately to support their local change programme. I can confirm there is no formal requirement for schools in Wales to use the Hwb platform to benefit from the EdTech funding. However, the Welsh Government does recommend the use of Hwb to enable schools to benefit from the national approach to digital and technology to ensure schools focus is on maximising the benefits of digital learning in the classroom.

Local authorities and schools are supported to adopt Hwb services in line with our strategic priorities around digital equity, cybersecurity, sustainability and value for money.

Since 2019, the Welsh Government has worked in partnership with local authorities to embed a common digital infrastructure across Wales. This collaborative approach has enabled the delivery of national services, including access to Microsoft 365 at no cost to schools.

Is there an informal requirement?

There is no policy or directive that stipulates the use of Hwb as a prerequisite for funding. However, because many of the services provided through the Hwb platform are centrally funded and supported, access to these services, and in some cases, funding linked to their effective use, does depend on engagement with the Hwb infrastructure.

For example, device management solutions and cloud-based tools provided nationally through Hwb are designed to ensure security, consistency, and safeguarding compliance. Schools not using Hwb may not be able to access these benefits or support services in the same way.

The Welsh Government continues to encourage the adoption of Hwb services to ensure that all learners benefit from a safe, secure, and equitable digital learning environment.

For further information on the Hwb platform and services, you may wish to consult [the Hwb Help and Support Centre](#)

Should you require further clarification or assistance, please feel free to contact me.

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: Freedomofinformation@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