

15 July 2025

Dear

ATISN 24830 – Baroness Casey's audit of group-based child sexual exploitation

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 18 June 2025 relating to the review/audit by Baroness Casey into abuse carried out by grooming gangs in England and Wales which was published on 16th June.

You highlighted that the review noted: "We also sought data from the Department for Health & Social Care and the Government of Wales on how many cases of child sexual abuse or exploitation they see in health services but have only been able to obtain data from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (England)."

You referred to the review and requested the following:

- *Please provide copies of all correspondence received by the Welsh Government from Baroness Casey, her team or any other institutions, about providing data towards the review/audit.*
- *Please provide copies of the Welsh Government's response/responses to these requests.*

Our Response

Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

Baroness Casey published her audit report on group-based sexual exploitation of children on 16th June.

On page 52, the report states, "We also sought data from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Government of Wales on how many cases of child sexual abuse or exploitation they see in health services but have only been able to obtain data from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (England)." This was incorrect as health data had not been requested by the audit team from Welsh Government. This was raised with the audit team.

On 20th June, Baroness Casey wrote to the First Minister to apologise for the error, confirming that health information was not requested from Welsh Government by the audit team and providing assurance that the report would be amended. We are assured that the report has now been amended.

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,