

19 December 2025

Dear

ATISN 26400 – Funding for organisations

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 November 2025. You asked for:

The amount of funding provided by Welsh Government in each of the past 5 years to the following organisations:

- Welsh Refugee Council
- City of Sanctuary UK
- Asylum Justice
- Hoops and Loops
- City United Reformed Church.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed at **Annex 1**.

I have decided that some of the information requested is exempt from disclosure under section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying this exemption are set out in full at **Annex 2** to this letter.

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

Annex 1

ATISN 26400 – Funding for organisations

Our records show that, for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2025, direct funding was provided to two of the organisations listed in your request:

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Organisation 1	161,665.00	312,901.00	166,480.00	171,364.90	171,365.00
Organisation 2	50,000.00	50,000.00	-	39,779.60	161,746.25

These amounts do not include funding provided for organisations as part of a consortium delivering the Welsh Government's commissioned Wales Sanctuary Service. For that Service, how funds are distributed within the consortium is a matter for consortium members.

Annex 2 – Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act/Environmental Information Regulations provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

We have decided to withhold the following information under **section 38** of the Freedom of Information Act:

- The organisation names that received funding from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2025.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

Engagement of section 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act

This exemption states:

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to—

- (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or
- (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

The Commissioner's Guidance on s38 states (inter alia):

Section 38 provides an exemption from disclosing information if it would endanger any individual (including the applicant, the supplier of the information or anyone else). The exemption does not necessarily deal with what are usually thought of as health and safety matters, such as establishing the cause of an accident.

The Welsh Government believes that third sector and community organisation names and details of their contracts, including organisations who expressed Health and Safety concerns, should be exempt from disclosure due to the targeting and direct abuse of organisations linked to the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary policy.

Officials have received evidence detailing how involvement with supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Wales has led to online misinformation, targeting and abuse. This clearly evidences the harms that releasing this information may have on individuals.

Third sector organisations have been targeted for abuse, both online and via threats, and the disclosure of this information is likely to escalate issues, resulting in the endangerment of both the physical/mental health of funded organisation staff, as well as endangering their safety.

Public Interest Test

In order to satisfy the public interest test in relation to the exemption(s), it is necessary to conclude that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information are sufficient to outweigh the public interest arguments in favour of release.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The Welsh Government acknowledges the general public interest in openness and transparency that release of this information would engender. Further, we recognise there is a public interest in supporting the public to better understand the Nation of Sanctuary policy and approach.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

The Welsh Government recognises the general public interest in avoiding prejudice and harm to individuals, which could arise if this information was released. There is a public interest to protect staff and residents at the accommodation, local services, communities and staff working in the third sector. Withholding the information would avoid potential escalation of such risks.

Balance of public interest test

The Welsh Government can see no public interest in allowing prejudice to occur and putting people at risk and so believes the public interest favours withholding under the above stated exemption.