

5 May 2026

Dear

ATISN 26888 – School Transport

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 15 April 2026. You asked for information on school transport costs and usage, with specific reference to details on transporting learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). You asked for information for the most recent five financial years (or the maximum period available). I have provided the information the Welsh Government holds on an all Wales basis for the years requested, you will see from the responses below that we do not hold some of the information requested.

I have structured this response to align with the wording in your original request.

Our response:

1. Overall Transport Spend

- **Total annual spend on home-to-school transport**

This information is published on the Welsh Government's Stats Wales web pages. [Budgeted education revenue expenditure by authority and service | StatsWales](#)
[Education revenue outturn expenditure by authority and service | StatsWales](#)

In addition, the Welsh Government has undertaken ad hoc data collection exercises with local authorities in Wales. The all-Wales data held is set out below (numbers rounded)

- 2024/25: £204,530,000
- 2022/23: £158,700,000

- **Total annual spend specifically on ALN transport**

This information is published on the Welsh Government's Stats Wales web pages. [Budgeted education revenue expenditure by authority and service | StatsWales](#)
[Education revenue outturn expenditure by authority and service | StatsWales](#)

In addition, the Welsh Government has undertaken ad hoc data collection exercises with local authorities in Wales. The all Wales data held is set out below (numbers rounded)

- 2024/25: £88,609,000

- **Total annual spend on taxi/private hire transport for ALN pupils**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

2. Usage and Pupil Numbers

- **Number of ALN pupils receiving transport support**

- 2024/25: 11,314

- **Number of ALN pupils transported specifically by taxi/private hire**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

- **Number of pupils transported:**
 - **Individually (single occupancy)**
 - **In shared transport (2 or more pupils)**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

3. Cost Analysis

- **Average annual cost per ALN pupil transported by taxi**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

- **Highest annual cost for a single pupil (anonymised)**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

- **Number of pupils whose annual transport cost exceeds:**
 - **£5,000**
 - **£10,000**
 - **£20,000**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

4. Journey and Distance Data

- **Average distance travelled per pupil (or distance bands if exact data unavailable)**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

- **Longest distance travelled by an individual pupil (anonymised)**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

5. Operational Details

- **Number of routes using:**
 - **Single-pupil taxi journeys**
 - **Multi-pupil/shared journeys**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

- **Number of journeys requiring escorts and associated annual cost of escorts**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

6. Procurement and Contracts

- **List of transport providers used for ALN taxi services**
- **Total annual spend per provider**
- **Procurement method used (e.g. framework agreement, tender process)**
- **Number of bids received for the most recent procurement exercise**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

7. Policies and Controls

- **Copies of any policies, guidance, or criteria used to determine:**
 - **When a taxi is used instead of other transport**
 - **When transport is provided individually vs shared**
- **Details of any route optimisation or cost-efficiency measures in place**
- **Frequency of review for individual transport arrangements**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government

8. Reviews and Oversight

- **Details of any internal audits, reviews, or reports conducted in the last three years relating to ALN transport costs or efficiency**

[Learner Travel \(Wales\) Measure \(2008\) review 2021 | GOV.WALES](#)

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