

Dear

ATISN 27164 Nation of Sanctuary webpages

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 1 July 2026. You asked for:

records relating to the former Sanctuary Wales webpage previously available at or associated with the following URLs and path aliases:

- * <https://sanctuary.gov.wales/refugeesandasylumseekers>
- * <https://sanctuary.gov.wales/refugeesandasylumseekers/>
- * <https://sanctuary.gov.wales/refugeesandasylumseekers/housing>
- * <https://sanctuary.gov.wales/refugeesandasylumseekers/housing/>

Additionally, you requested the following recorded information:

1. The full text/content of the former webpage or webpages associated with the above URLs, including any content previously displayed in expandable sections, accordions, tabs or hidden page components.
2. Any CMS record, content item, node, page export, revision history, archived HTML, database export, static HTML export, content inventory, migration spreadsheet or equivalent record showing the content of those pages before redirection, retirement, replacement or migration.
3. Any records held by Welsh Government teams responsible for digital publishing, web migration, website content which contain any of the following phrases or partial phrases:
 - * “did not choose to come to Wales”
 - * “stay in Wales as possible”
 - * “but we want as many”

For this part of the request, you requested a search of records likely to contain website drafting, review, approval or migration material, including CMS content records, SharePoint files, Teams files, Word documents, spreadsheets, PDFs, email attachments, web-content tickets, redirect maps, content inventories and migration records.

4. Any record showing when the redirect or redirects from the above Sanctuary Wales URL paths were created, approved, activated or changed, including redirect maps, migration plans, URL mapping spreadsheets, web tickets, development tickets, deployment/change logs, content audit records or instructions to a web developer, supplier or content team.

If any relevant website content, CMS history, redirect mapping, archive, backup, development ticket or migration record is held by a contractor, supplier, web developer, hosting provider or other third party on behalf of the Welsh Government, you asked for it to be treated as held for the purposes of FOIA.

If the request would exceed the cost limit, you asked for it to be processed in the following

order of priority:

1. The full previous content of the page at /refugeesandasylumseekers/housing, including accordion content;
2. CMS revision/history/export records for that page;
3. Records containing the exact phrases listed above;
4. Redirect or migration records for the four URL variants listed above;

Our response

In relation to your requests above:

Points 1. and 2: An export of all content in relation to the webpages within your request is enclosed at Annex A.

Point 3: A search of the content at Annex A does not reveal any of the following phrases or partial phrases:

- * “did not choose to come to Wales”
- * “stay in Wales as possible”
- * “but we want as many”.

A search of Welsh Government records found a draft document created in September 2021 titled “04 HOUSING – Amendments needed” – this is attached at Annex B. This document contains the above phrases, although they are shown as having been deleted. There is no record to show that the content of the document was agreed for publication by the team responsible for the Sanctuary Wales webpages, or whether the changes were published to the Sanctuary Wales webpages.

Point 4: The Sanctuary Wales webpages were retired on 30 June 2026. I have enclosed at Annex C a copy of the support ticket to redirect the site from 00:00 hours on 1 July 2026.

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