

12 August 2026

Dear

ATISN 27276 – Letters of Comfort – Migration & Nation of Sanctuary

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 29 July 2026.

Your request is in relation to a 2026 Decision Report titled ‘Letters of Comfort – Migration and Nation of Sanctuary’ which was published by the Welsh Government on 7 January 2026. You asked for:

1. Details of the advice received by the relevant Minister(s) regarding the issuing of the letters of comfort
2. Which organisations received the letters of comfort
3. Details regarding the specific purposes or functions for issuing the letter of comfort to each of these organisations
4. Details regarding the Welsh Government funding received by each of these organisations, in relation to the letters of comfort
5. Whether the current Welsh Government is committed to respecting and upholding these letters of comfort, issued by the previous Welsh Government

Our response

A copy of the information I have decided to release is enclosed. Each point is related to the corresponding point above:

1. Details of the advice received by the relevant Minister(s) regarding the issuing of the letters of comfort:

The relevant Minister of the 2021-2026 Welsh Government administration received advice on 15 December 2025, relating to the issuing of letters of comfort for the 2026-2027 financial year, to third sector organisations. The decision report was published on 7 January 2026.

2. Organisations which received the letters of comfort:

Organisation	Funding amount
REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£142,800
REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£83,700
REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£307,500
REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£215,750
REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£30,600

REDACTED – s.38 exemption	£51,000
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- Details regarding the specific purposes or functions for issuing the letter of comfort to each of these organisations:

The [Third Sector Scheme: code of practice for funding the third sector](#), requires the Welsh Government to provide third sector organisations at least 3 months' notice of our decision to either award or withdraw funding for the following financial year.

In relation to the letters of comfort captured by your request, these were issued before the 31 December 2025 to notify third sector partners of their funding for the 2026-2027 financial year.

- Details regarding the Welsh Government funding received by each of these organisations, in relation to the letters of comfort:

Please see **Point 2** above.

- Whether the current Welsh Government is committed to respecting and upholding these letters of comfort, issued by the previous Welsh Government:

Letters of Comfort were issued by 31st December 2025 and corresponding Grant Award Letters issued ahead of the 2026-2027 financial year commencing. This funding is legally committed via a Grant Award Letter. This funding was committed by the previous Welsh Government administration.

I have decided that some of the information 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 1 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

Application of exemptions/exceptions

The Freedom of information Act provides 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.

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

- The names of third sector organisations awarded funding in relation to the Letters of Comfort 2026-2027.

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 section 38 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 the names of third sector organisations should be exempt from disclosure. This is because of the targeting and direct abuse of certain organisations linked to the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary approach.

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, 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 approach.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

The Welsh Government recognises the public interest in avoiding prejudice and harm to individuals, which could arise if this information was released. There is a public interest to protect third sector organisations and Welsh Government staff involved in this area of policy. 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.