

## ATISN 27304 – Annex B

1. The annual budget allocated to the DAF for each financial year from 2022/23 to 2025/26.

[\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Welsh Government budgets | GOV.WALES](#)

2. The total amount awarded from the DAF in each of those financial years.

Attached at Annex C.

3. Any unspent balance remaining at the end of each financial year, and how any unspent funds were subsequently dealt with.

2022-23 - £0.4m saving on the Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), absorbed into a wider Main Expenditure Group (MEG) underspend and taken back to Reserves.

2023-24 - £1.8m saving on the BEL, absorbed into a wider MEG underspend and taken back to Reserves.

2024-25 - £9.4m saving on the BEL, used to offset pressures in the Cohesive Communities BEL and the Volunteering Sector BEL at year-end.

2025-26 – accounts not yet finalised

4. The total number of EAP applications received, approved and refused in each financial year from 2022/23 to 2025/26.

Attached at Annex C.

5. A breakdown of refusal reasons by category for EAP applications during those financial years.

Attached at Annex C.

6. The number of EAP applications refused solely on the basis that “lost or stolen money is not covered by the Fund” during each of the last four financial years.

Attached Annex C.

7. Copies of any current recorded information provided to decision-makers when assessing EAP applications.

I have decided that the Decision Maker’s Guide is exempt from disclosure under section(s) s29(1)(b) and s31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A of this letter.

8. Any recorded information explaining how decision-makers assess applications where an applicant is not seeking reimbursement for lost or stolen money, but where the loss or theft has caused immediate financial hardship and an inability to meet essential living costs.

Lost/Stolen money is an exclusion reason in the Decision Maker’s Guide. I have decided that the Decision Maker’s Guide is exempt from disclosure under section(s) s29(1)(b) and s31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act

and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A of this letter.

9. Any recorded information explaining the distinction between:

- an application seeking reimbursement for lost or stolen money; and
- an application seeking emergency assistance because the loss or theft has caused an immediate financial crisis.

As Above

10. Recorded information establishing that lost or stolen money is not covered by the DAF.

As Above.

11. The date on which the lost/stolen money exclusion was introduced.

No recorded information held.

12. Information that shows whether the lost/stolen money exclusion is mandatory, or whether decision-makers retain discretion to award assistance where the applicant otherwise meets the published criteria for extreme financial hardship, unexpected crisis and immediate need.

The exclusion is mandatory. Lost/Stolen money is an exclusion reason in the Decision Maker's Guide. I have decided that the Decision Maker's Guide is exempt from disclosure under section(s) s29(1)(b) and s31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

13. Information showing where prospective applicants are informed of the lost/stolen money exclusion before providing personal and financial information and completing an application.

No information held - The lost/stolen money exclusion is not provided to prospective applicants.

14. A complete list of all substantive categories of circumstance, expenditure, crisis or cause of financial hardship that are excluded from EAP support, including where an applicant otherwise satisfies the published requirements of extreme financial hardship, unexpected crisis, immediate need and absence of other resources.

A complete list of refusal reasons is included at Annex C in answer to question 5.

15. Information showing where each exclusion category is communicated publicly to prospective applicants before they submit an application.

No information held - The exclusion categories are not communicated publicly to prospective applicants before they submit an application.

16. A complete list of standard EAP refusal reasons, decision codes or outcome categories available within the DAF system.

Included in Annex C in response to question 5.

17. For each EAP refusal reason/code, the wording of that reason and the number of applications refused under that reason during 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Included at Annex C in response to question 5.

18. What information the computer system displays to a decision-maker when they assess an application.

No information held. WG does not hold information on what the decision makers see.

19. Any current information provided to NEC staff that describe how DAF applications are assessed by the computer system or how the system interacts with human decision-makers.

No information held. No decisions relating to DAF applications are made by the computer system.

20. Approximately what proportion of EAP applications during 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26:

- were approved;
- were refused;
- were referred for additional human consideration;
- received an initial system-generated outcome or recommendation; and
- were manually overridden by a decision-maker.

All decisions are made by a decision-maker, there is no automation, therefore no information held. Approval and refusal numbers have already been provided at Annex C.

21. Information showing whether the current DAF privacy notice is considered to provide applicants with information about automated decision-making and profiling; if no such processing takes place, confirmation of this; and if such processing does take place, where applicants are informed of it.

No automated decision making and profiling takes place, so no information held.

22. Information showing whether funding allocated to the Discretionary Assistance Fund is formally ring-fenced, hypothecated, protected or otherwise restricted to DAF purposes.

Please provide any recorded information governing whether DAF funding may be transferred or used for another purpose.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-11/equality-and-social-justice-committee-cabinet-secretary-for-social-justice-november-2025.pdf>

Please provide any recorded policy, legal provision, financial rule, budgetary instruction or accounting guidance governing whether DAF funding may be transferred or used for another purpose.

Consistent with normal Welsh Government budget management arrangements, any underspend forms part of the wider MEG outturn position and may be used to offset pressures within the MEG or returned to Welsh Government reserves rather than being retained exclusively for future DAF expenditure.

23. For each financial year from 2022/23 to 2025/26, please provide:

- the original DAF budget;
- any revised/final budget;
- the final outturn;
- expenditure on EAP awards;
- expenditure on IAP awards;
- administration and contractor costs;
- contingency amounts;
- and the final underspend or overspend.

For each financial year from 2022/23 to 2025/26:

**Published Budgets:**

[\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Welsh Government budgets | GOV.WALES](#)

**Published Accounts:**

[Search results for "Report on Outturn" | GOV.WALES](#)

- the original DAF budget; **Published Budgets**
- any revised/final budget; **Published Budgets**
- the final outturn; **Published accounts – 2025-26 not yet published**
- expenditure on EAP awards; **Information included at Annex C**
- expenditure on IAP awards; **Information included at Annex C.**
- administration and contractor costs; **Under consideration.**
- contingency amounts; **Information not held as there are no formal contingency amounts.**
- and the final underspend or overspend. **Published accounts – 2025-26 not yet published**

## Summary of FYs:

2022-23 - £0.4m saving on the BEL, absorbed into a wider MEG underspend and taken back to Reserves.

2023-24 - £1.8m saving on the BEL, absorbed into a wider MEG underspend and taken back to Reserves.

2024-25 - £9.4m saving on the BEL, used to offset pressures in the Cohesive Communities BEL and the Volunteering Sector BEL at year-end.

2025-26 – accounts not yet finalised

24. Details of every recorded in-year budget transfer into or out of the DAF budget during those years, including the amount, date and originating or receiving budget line/BEL where recorded

For any year-end DAF underspend, please provide information showing whether it was carried forward, transferred/reallocated, surrendered, absorbed into a wider departmental/MEG underspend, or otherwise dealt with.

Published Budgets - covered in 23 above.

Already answered in Question 22.

25. Recorded information showing the subsequent financial treatment of that £2 million contingency saving in 2023-24. In particular:

- Was the £2 million transferred or reallocated to another budget, BEL, programme or purpose? **The underspend was not transferred or reallocated to another budget, it was absorbed into a wider MEG underspend and taken back to Reserves.**
- If so, please identify the amount, destination, date and purpose of each transfer. **N/A**
- If it was not transferred, how was the £2 million treated in the final Welsh Government accounts/outturn? **The £2m underspend formed part of the SJ MEG reported underspend of £3.8m at year-end 2023-24, the savings were taken back to WG Reserves.**
- Did any of it remain available for DAF expenditure before the end of 2023–24? **It was available for DAF to use up until the end of 2023-24, after year-end the savings were taken back to WG Reserves.**
- Please provide any budget movement records, finance records, approval documents or other recorded information identifying its final treatment. **N/A**

27. Any recorded information communicated to DAF managers or decision-makers which could affect the number or value of awards made. This includes any recorded information concerning approval rates, refusal rates, expenditure levels, remaining budget, monthly/quarterly spending profiles or measures to manage demand.

**No such targets or instructions exist; therefore no information is held.**