

6 October 2026

Dear

ATISN 27489: Direct Nature Action Budget Allocations, 2020–2026
Information requested

Thank you for your request, received on 10 September 2026, for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. You asked for:

- The percentage of the total Welsh Government budget allocated to direct nature actions and land-use change, such as the creation of wetlands and broadleaved woodlands, for financial years 2020-21 to 2025-26, excluding farming payments and forestry development.
- The annual allocation levels for those activities and the budget lines in which the allocations sit for financial years 2020-21 to 2025-26.

Our response

The information held by the Welsh Government is set out below. Figures are presented as supplied by the relevant policy and finance teams. They are budget allocations or offers of support unless otherwise stated.

1. Land, Nature and Forestry

The following table brings together the annual figures supplied by Land, Nature and Forestry. A dash means that no annual figure was supplied. This is due to the named scheme / budget area not operating in that year.

Programme or scheme	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
National Peatland Action Programme: estimated direct delivery	£1,500,000	£1,573,000	£1,850,220	£2,572,687	£3,055,967	£3,068,464
Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	£500,000	£800,000
Local Places for Nature	£8,861,000	£6,900,000	£12,798,000	£18,875,000	£22,240,000	£17,714,000
Broadleaf woodland creation	£171,169	£1,534,230	£1,487,078	£642,287	£988,966	£1,219,093
Ffermio Bro	—	—	—	—	—	£1,480,000
Integrated Natural Resources Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	£1,500,000
National Forest Landscape Scheme	—	—	—	—	£634,500	£804,531

Woodland Investment Grant	—	—	£1,900,000	£3,000,000	£3,000,000	£3,900,000
Coetiroedd Bach, or Tiny Forests	—	—	—	£825,000	£998,000	—
Commemorative Woodlands	—	£7,842	£563,321	£1,105,955	£198,091	£66,445
Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places	£850,000	£1,178,415	£5,411,364 across 2022-23 to 2024-25	Included in multi-year figure	Included in multi-year figure	£1,586,167
Sustainable Development Fund	£82,500 across 2020-21 to 2021-22	Included in multi-year figure	£120,000	£150,000 across 2023-24 to 2024-25	Included in multi-year figure	£285,000

Important qualifications: For peatland restoration, the figures are estimates of direct restoration, land-management and supporting survey costs. Staff, overhead and evidence costs have been excluded where possible.

The full budget figures for the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme and Local Places for Nature have been included, although some funded activity is outside the scope of direct nature action.

The broadleaf woodland figures exclude additional capital items that cannot be separated between conifer and broadleaf planting. An estimated further £500,000 is committed to maintenance and premium payments over the lifetime of the contracts. Some landscape programme figures were supplied only as multi-year totals and have not been apportioned between individual financial years.

Further published information covering the years in question is available from:

- [Wales Rural Network: Rural Development Programme 2014–2020](https://businesswales.gov.wales/ruralaffairswales/rdp-2014-2020) (https://businesswales.gov.wales/ruralaffairswales/rdp-2014-2020)
- [Welsh Government: Rural Development Plan money allocated, committed and spent](https://www.gov.wales/rural-development-plan-money-allocated-committed-and-spent) (https://www.gov.wales/rural-development-plan-money-allocated-committed-and-spent)

2. Marine and Biodiversity

Marine and Biodiversity supplied the following total amounts offered to support direct nature actions and land-use change in each financial year:

Financial year	Amount offered
2020-21	£17,244,213
2021-22	£24,192,275
2022-23	£15,900,000
2023-24	£21,420,000
2024-25	£19,932,000

2025-26	£19,747,000
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3. Welsh Government budget totals and percentage comparison

The Welsh Government totals below are the published Total Managed Expenditure Final Budget figures, excluding Annually Managed Expenditure. They therefore represent Departmental Expenditure Limit totals.

Financial year	Welsh Government DEL (£000s)	Revenue (£000s)	Non-cash (£000s)	Capital (£000s)
2020-21	17,703,980	15,375,209	—	2,328,771
2021-22	19,722,588	16,616,194	537,959	2,568,435
2022-23	21,644,447	17,992,656	996,986	2,654,805
2023-24	22,968,409	19,050,190	1,033,909	2,884,310
2024-25	23,854,390	19,824,744	1,084,898	2,944,748
2025-26	25,910,940	21,533,201	892,441	3,485,298

Using the Land, Nature and Forestry figures that can be assigned to an individual year, together with the annual Marine and Biodiversity figures, produces the following comparison:

Financial year	LNF annual figures included	Marine and Biodiversity	Combined identified allocation	Percentage of Welsh Government DEL
2020-21	£12,882,169	£17,244,213	£30,126,382	0.170%
2021-22	£12,693,487	£24,192,275	£36,885,762	0.187%
2022-23	£20,218,619	£15,900,000	£36,118,619	0.167%
2023-24	£28,520,929	£21,420,000	£49,940,929	0.217%
2024-25	£31,615,524	£19,932,000	£51,547,524	0.216%
2025-26	£32,423,700	£19,747,000	£52,170,700	0.201%

Basis of the percentage calculation: The percentage is the combined Land, Nature and Forestry annual figures that can be assigned to a specific financial year, plus the Marine and Biodiversity annual total, divided by the Welsh Government DEL Final Budget total for that year. Multi-year Land, Nature and Forestry allocations that could not be assigned reliably to an individual year, and programmes for which no annual figure was supplied, are excluded from this calculation.

The percentages are therefore a comparison of the identified annual allocations held for this response, rather than a definitive measure of all Welsh Government expenditure on nature action. The inclusion of full programme budgets for Local Places for Nature and the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme also means that the numerator includes some activity outside direct nature action.

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 by email to: 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,