

12/10/2026

Dear

ATISN 27506 Built vs Nature-Based Flood Management Funding (2020–2026)

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 14/09/2026. You asked for:

1. Annual budget allocation and actual spend (in £ monetary value and as a percentage of total Welsh Government budget) for built solutions to flooding and water management for financial years 2020 to 2026 inclusive, broken down by: (a) River catchments, (b) Coastal communities, and (c) Offshore / at sea.
2. Annual budget allocation and spend (in £ monetary value and as a percentage of total budget) for nature-based or natural solutions over the same period, broken down by the same three geographic areas.
3. The public-facing budget line codes/names where these funds sit within the published Welsh Government budget.

Our response

The information held by the Welsh Government is set out in Annex A of this letter. We have interpreted “built solutions” as capital investment. Annex A provides the annual budget allocations and actual expenditure held for flood and water management, including capital funding for Natural Flood Management. Annex B sets out Welsh Government Final Budgets for each year.

The funding is reported under Flood Risk Management in the Climate Change and Rural Affairs tab of the Welsh Government’s published [Final Budget Expenditure Line Tables](#).

The Welsh Government does not hold the information in the geographic breakdown requested. Budgets and expenditure for flood and water management are recorded against programmes, individual schemes and delivery bodies; they are not routinely categorised, monitored or reported by river catchment, coastal community or offshore/at-sea area. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of allocations and expenditure by those categories from the information held.

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

Water Programme Investment

Financial Year	Allocation	Actual
2020-21	£8,000,000	£5,367,000
2021-22	£9,500,000	£5,398,420
2022-23	£10,000,000	£6,390,673
2023-24	£15,000,000	£8,721,329
2024-25	£15,000,000	£14,999,992
2025-26	£11,500,000	£11,499,292

Flood Investment Programme

	Main Capital Programme		Natural Flood Management Programme	
Financial Year	Allocation	Actual	Allocation	Actual
2020-21	£28,000,000	£25,285,217	£295,096	£272,922
2021-22	£36,000,000	£33,182,758	£1,320,548	£1,188,373
2022-23	£34,000,000	£33,249,512	£1,746,507	£700,322
2023-24	£35,000,000	£43,882,986	£1,291,429	£694,340
2024-25	£39,200,000	£37,094,382	£1,996,000	£3,146,257
2025-26	£34,300,000	£38,642,369	£2,000,000	£2,356,570

Welsh Government Final Capital Budgets

	Welsh Government total Capital Budget	Total Flood and Water Capital allocations	Percentage of Welsh Government budget*
2020-21	£2,328,771,000	£36,295,096	1.56%
2021-22	£2,568,435,000	£46,820,548	1.82%
2022-23	£2,654,805,000	£45,746,507	1.72%
2023-24	£2,884,310,000	£51,291,429	1.78%
2024-25	£2,944,748,000	£56,196,000	1.91%
2025-26	£3,485,298,000	£47,800,000	1.37%

*Basis of the percentage calculation: The percentage is the combined Flood and Water annual allocation figures divided by the Welsh Government Capital Final Budget total for that year (full Welsh Government Final Budgets, including Departmental Expenditure Limits, Revenue, Non-Cash and Capital can be found in Annex B for reference). The percentages are a comparison of the identified annual allocations held for this response, rather than a definitive measure of all Welsh Government expenditure on nature action.

Welsh Government Final Budgets

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

Note: the figures are the published Total Managed Expenditure Final Budget figures, excluding Annually Managed Expenditure