10 November 2026

Dear

ATISN 26-0061 – Nation of Sanctuary

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 October 2026. You asked for:

Any/all documentation which would provide unequivocable assurance that the creation and function of a "Nation of Sanctuary" does not breach the requirements of Parts I & II of the Immigration Act 1971 where no leave to remain is extant.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we confirm that the Welsh Government does not hold the information you have requested.

We have searched our electronic records, including material relating to the development and publication of the Nation of Sanctuary Plan (2019) and subsequent policy material. The Nation of Sanctuary Plan was developed to support delivery within the Welsh Government's devolved responsibilities, not to change or override immigration law or decisions on leave to enter or remain in the UK.

This response confirms that the information requested is not held; it is not a determination of the legal question raised.

Although we do not hold the information requested, the Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan, published under the 2016–2021 Welsh Government administration, provides context. It explains that the UK Government is responsible for asylum policy and that the Plan focuses on matters within devolved responsibilities that the Welsh Government can influence. The Plan does not confer immigration status or leave to enter or remain in the UK.

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