



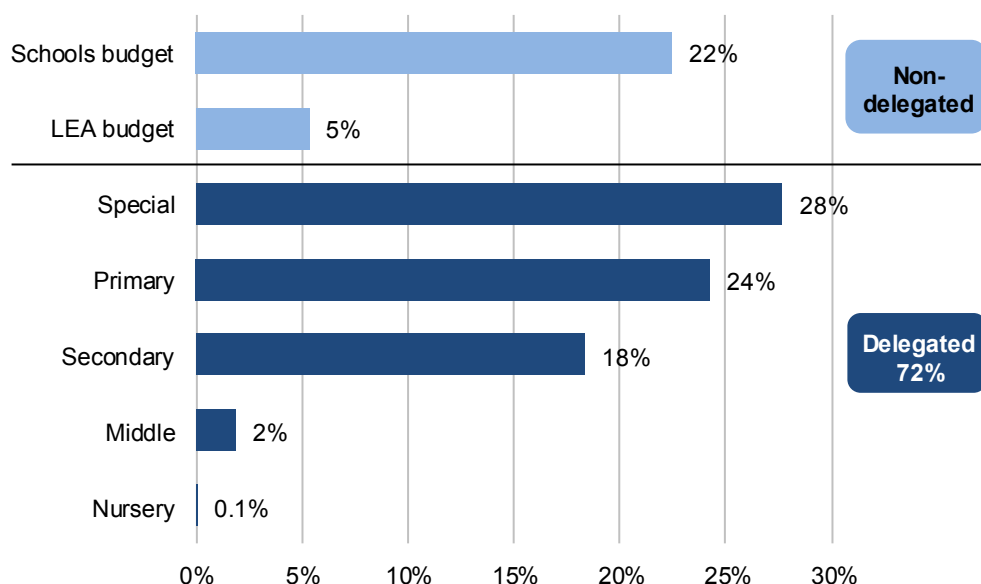
Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision: 2019-20 - Revised

5 July 2019
SFR 48/2019(R)

Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision in schools by local authorities is budgeted to be £405 million, an increase of £23.2 million or 6.1% compared with the previous year.
- 28% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure is delegated to special schools. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools account for a further 45% of the total. The remaining 28% is non-delegated money held centrally by local authorities.
- Denbighshire delegates the largest proportion of their SEN budget to their schools at 90%, whilst Caerphilly delegates the smallest proportion at 53%.
- Total SEN expenditure per pupil for Wales is budgeted to be £892. This consists of £644 delegated expenditure per pupil and £248 non-delegated expenditure per pupil.
- Merthyr Tydfil has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,202, whilst Torfaen has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £694.

Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2019 -20



Additional information is available at: stats.wales.gov.wales.

About this release

This release has been revised due to errors in the notional SEN budget provided by Powys County Council.

This statistical release analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh Local Authorities in respect of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for 2019-20.

The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

In this release

Budgeted expenditure	2
Budgeted expenditure per pupil	4
Glossary	6

Table 1 shows that budgeted expenditure on SEN provision increased by 6.1% compared to the previous year. Merthyr Tydfil has the largest percentage increase at 19.5% due to new SEN classes within mainstream schools. Powys has a percentage decrease of 16.4% due to SEN funds being transferred to core education following a fundamental review to their school funding formula.

Table 1: Budgeted expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision (a)

Authority	2018-19	2019-20	Change	£ thousand	
				Percentage	
				change	
Isle of Anglesey	8,349	8,926	577	6.9	
Gwynedd	15,243	15,411	168	1.1	
Conwy	13,231	13,490	259	2.0	
Denbighshire	12,269	12,502	233	1.9	
Flintshire	19,384	21,804	2,420	12.5	
Wrexham	15,149	15,908	759	5.0	
Powys	16,534	13,817 (r)	-2,718 (r)	-16.4 (r)	
Ceredigion	8,217	9,001	783	9.5	
Pembrokeshire	15,105	15,508	403	2.7	
Carmarthenshire	21,003	22,295	1,292	6.2	
Swansea	37,150	39,792	2,642	7.1	
Neath Port Talbot	17,307	17,955	649	3.7	
Bridgend	18,789	20,572	1,783	9.5	
Vale of Glamorgan	15,201	17,475	2,274	15.0	
Cardiff	49,572	53,259	3,687	7.4	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,426	26,541	2,115	8.7	
Merthyr Tydfil	8,903	10,637	1,734	19.5	
Caerphilly	19,333	21,630	2,297	11.9	
Blaenau Gwent	9,673	9,857	184	1.9	
Torfaen	9,357	9,876	519	5.6	
Monmouthshire	8,424	8,381	-43	-0.5	
Newport	18,860	20,028	1,168	6.2	
Wales	381,479	404,664 (r)	23,185 (r)	6.1 (r)	

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(r) Revised due to errors in the notional SEN budget provided by Powys County Council.

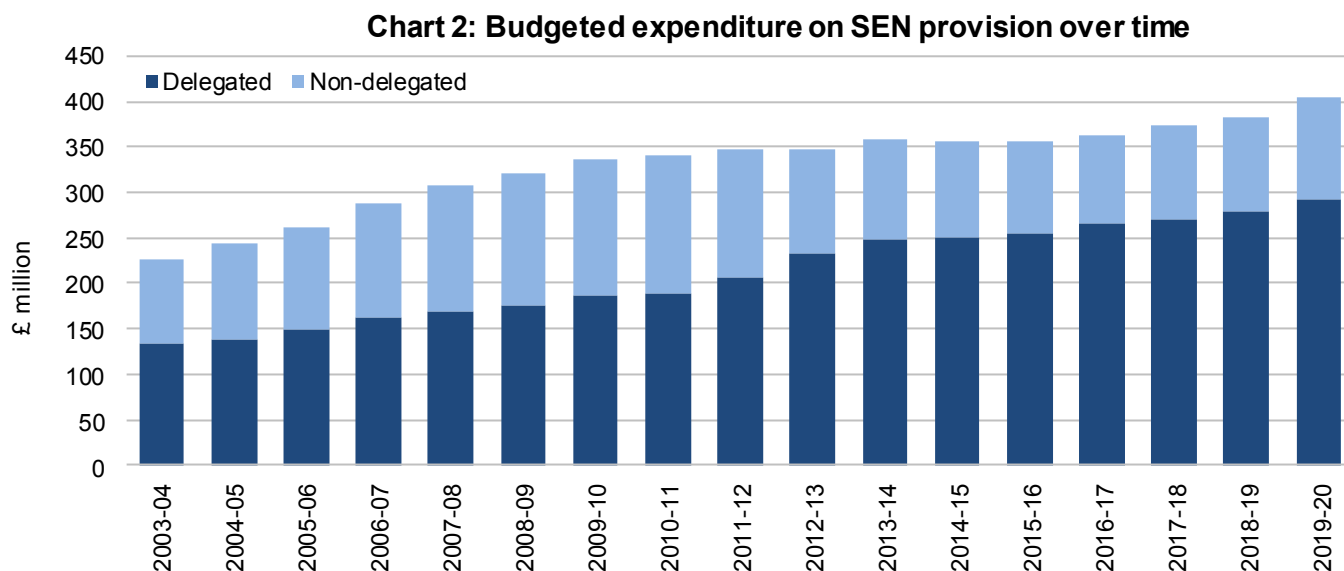


Table 2: Budgeted expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2019-20

£ thousand

	Delegated SEN expenditure						Non-delegated SEN expenditure					Delegated as a percentage of total
	Notional allocation to: (a)						Schools budget	Inter- authority recoupment	LEA budget	Total non- delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	Total delegated expenditure						
Authority												
Isle of Anglesey	0	2,282	0	1,783	1,858	5,923	2,518	295	190	3,003	8,926	66%
Gwynedd	0	3,810	350	2,723	4,348	11,231	2,618	457	1,105	4,180	15,411	73%
Conwy	0	3,505	0	2,747	4,541	10,793	2,076	150	471	2,697	13,490	80%
Denbighshire	0	3,441	344	1,974	5,516	11,274	2,444	-1,705	489	1,228	12,502	90%
Flintshire	0	4,260	0	4,622	4,112	12,994	6,036	1,920	854	8,810	21,804	60%
Wrexham	14	5,017	0	3,499	4,589	13,119	3,250	-683	222	2,788	15,908	82%
Powys	0	2,627 (r)	78 (r)	483 (r)	5,798	8,985 (r)	4,703	-237	365	4,832	13,817 (r)	65% (r)
Ceredigion (b)	0	2,557	1,637	2,295	0	6,489	2,487	-236	260	2,511	9,001	72%
Pembrokeshire	0	5,255	309	3,645	3,203	12,412	1,581	463	1,052	3,096	15,508	80%
Carmarthenshire	6	6,768	0	6,541	3,971	17,286	2,767	-245	2,487	5,009	22,295	78%
Swansea	0	11,808	0	8,402	5,265	25,475	11,549	1,157	1,611	14,317	39,792	64%
Neath Port Talbot	0	4,424	1,982	945	5,452	12,804	688	393	4,070	5,152	17,955	71%
Bridgend	0	3,308	0	3,383	9,350	16,041	4,218	-583	895	4,530	20,572	78%
Vale of Glamorgan	20	2,551	181	1,485	8,377	12,614	4,934	-1,096	1,023	4,861	17,475	72%
Cardiff	148	15,313	0	16,186	14,431	46,078	4,378	2,239	563	7,181	53,259	87%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	3,521	1,052	2,772	9,592	16,936	5,350	2,071	2,183	9,605	26,541	64%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	2,227	0	768	3,365	6,361	3,101	667	509	4,276	10,637	60%
Caerphilly	0	3,548	197	2,982	4,783	11,510	7,037	1,779	1,304	10,120	21,630	53%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,209	1,489	362	3,368	7,428	2,258	-256	427	2,429	9,857	75%
Torfaen	0	2,410	0	2,363	2,698	7,470	720	1,008	678	2,406	9,876	76%
Monmouthshire	0	2,159	0	1,135	2,368	5,662	1,919	389	412	2,719	8,381	68%
Newport	102	5,075	0	3,170	4,990	13,338	4,212	2,095	383	6,690	20,028	67%
Wales	290	98,077 (r)	7,618 (r)	74,266 (r)	111,974	292,225 (r)	80,845	10,043	21,551	112,440	404,664 (r)	72% (r)

(a) Includes notional allocations to schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend can vary from these notional allocations.

(b) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(r) Revised due to errors in the notional SEN budget provided by Powys County Council.

Table 3: Per pupil budgeted expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2019-20 (a)

£ per pupil

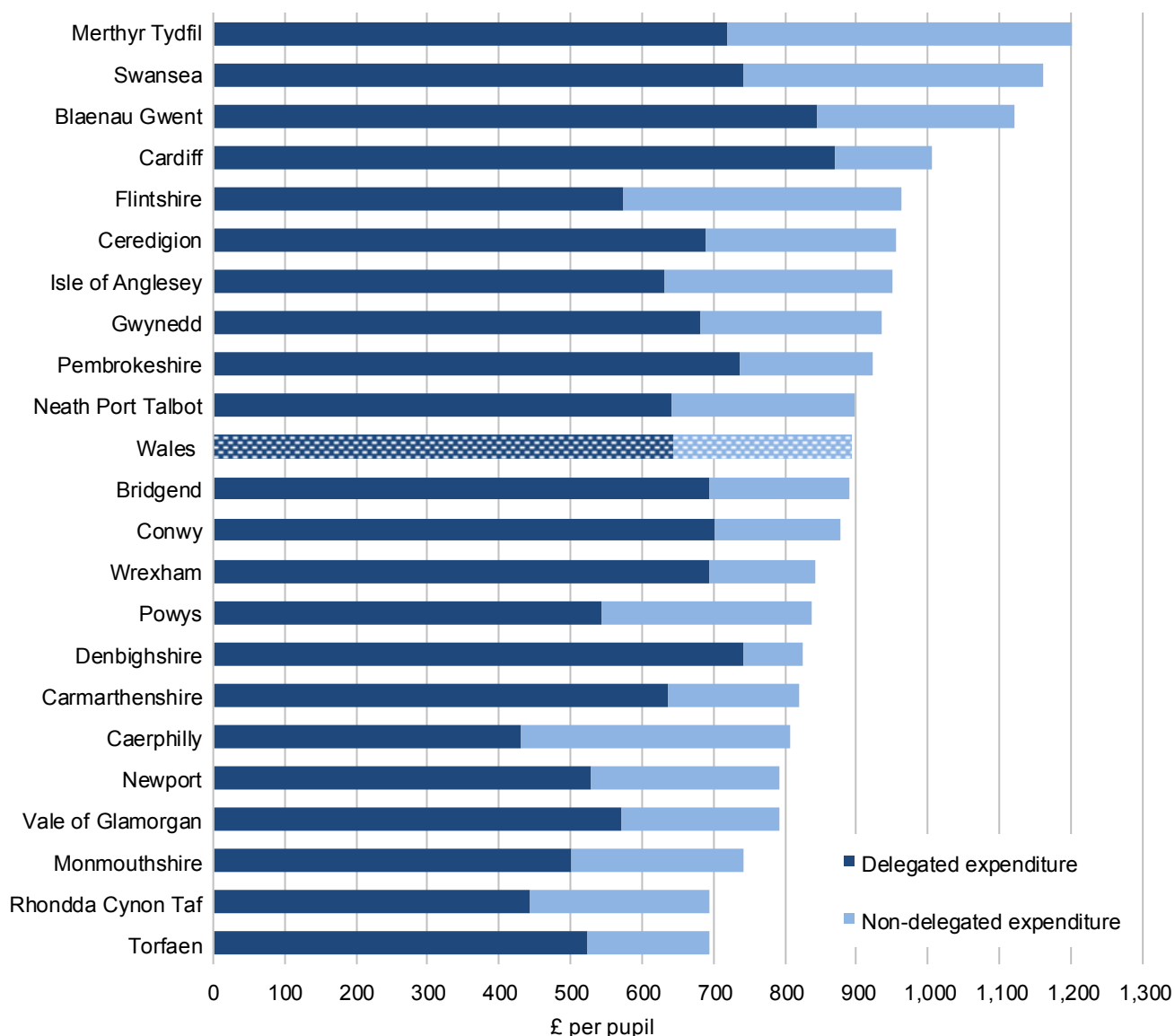
Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure							Non-delegated SEN expenditure					Percentage point difference on Wales average
	Notional allocation to:				Special schools			Schools budget	Inter-authority recoupment	LEA budget	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Number of places	Budget (£ per place)	Total delegated expenditure						
Isle of Anglesey	0	413	0	474	104	17,865	631	268	31	20	320	950	7 (r)
Gwynedd	0	430	408	415	218	19,963	681	159	28	67	253	934	5 (r)
Conwy	0	410	0	417	235	19,325	701	135	10	31	175	877	-2 (r)
Denbighshire	0	432	437	320	275	20,057	743	161	-112	32	81	824	-8 (r)
Flintshire	0	325	0	496	217	18,948	574	267	85	38	389	964	8 (r)
Wrexham	784	409	0	556	297	15,451	695	172	-36	12	148	843	-5 (r)
Powys	0	297 (r)	202 (r)	69 (r)	279	20,781	544 (r)	285	-14	22	293	837 (r)	-6 (r)
Ceredigion	0	602	743	770	0	0	688	264	-25	28	266	954	7 (r)
Pembrokeshire	0	542	360	597	154	20,799	738	94	28	63	184	922	3 (r)
Carmarthenshire	57	433	0	577	141	28,161	636	102	-9	91	184	820	-8 (r)
Swansea	0	583	0	607	182	28,929	743	337	34	47	418	1,161	30 (r)
Neath Port Talbot	0	404	501	196	277	19,718	640	34	20	204	258	898	1 (r)
Bridgend	0	249	0	359	383	24,413	694	183	-25	39	196	890	-0 (r)
Vale of Glamorgan	215	208	154	180	280	29,918	572	224	-50	46	220	792	-11 (r)
Cardiff	1,071	486	0	783	615	23,484	870	83	42	11	136	1,006	13 (r)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	172	225	222	571	16,798	443	140	54	57	251	695	-22 (r)
Merthyr Tydfil	0	391	0	258	170	19,757	719	350	75	57	483	1,202	35 (r)
Caerphilly	0	227	222	295	168	28,555	430	263	66	49	378	808	-9 (r)
Blaenau Gwent	0	488	537	271	153	22,013	846	257	-29	49	277	1,122	26 (r)
Torfaen	0	301	0	386	116	23,356	525	51	71	48	169	694	-22 (r)
Monmouthshire	0	331	0	241	58	40,821	502	170	34	36	241	743	-17 (r)
Newport	2,049	345	0	309	211	23,650	528	167	83	15	265	793	-11 (r)
Wales	729	379 (r)	411 (r)	434 (r)	5,102	21,947	644 (r)	178	22	48	248	892 (r)	0
Lowest	0	172	0	69		15,451	430	34		11	81	694	-22 (r)
Highest	2,049	602	743	783		40,821	870	350		204	483	1,202	35 (r)

(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

(r) Revised due to errors in the notional SEN budget provided by Powys County Council.

Chart 3 shows the budgeted expenditure per pupil on SEN. Merthyr Tydfil has the largest SEN expenditure per pupil whilst Torfaen has the lowest.

Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2019-20 (a)



(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

Glossary

Data sources

The main sources of information about Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs Provision are the Revenue Account (RA) and Section 52 (S52) returns from county councils.

Background

There are several issues that should be considered when using these data:

- For SEN provision, it is particularly important to be aware that there is variation in the criteria local authorities use to identify pupils with SEN. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LA. These are however notional and it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN. Therefore, the actual spend by nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison, the number of pupils in all schools have been used as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN. This is due to the fact that much SEN provision relates to pupils without a statement, particularly provision in non-special schools. The use of all pupils gives a fairer comparison of the relative differences between LAs, fully reflecting the different approaches taken by them in providing SEN services. By using all pupils, however, the data would suggest a lower SEN expenditure level per pupil than is actually the case.
- The 'schools budget', as set out in schedule 2 of the 2003 Regulations, covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises expenditure on services for which the LA retains funding centrally. These services include special educational needs (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs (SEN).
- Delegated expenditure derives from funding that is allocated directly to the schools by each local authority. Non-delegated expenditure derives from funding held centrally by the local authority and spent on behalf of the schools.
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LA functions involved in special educational needs, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs and exclude home to school transport costs.

Key quality information

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability.

Relevance

The statistics are important and have a number of uses, for example: advice to Ministers; local government finance revenue settlement calculations; unitary authority comparisons and benchmarking; expenditure in Wales compared to other countries; informing the debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond; assisting in research in public expenditure issues; economic analysis.

Accuracy

The main sources of information about Budgeted Expenditure on Special Educational Needs Provision are the Revenue Account (RA) and Section 52 (S52) returns from county councils. The latest returns relate to the 2019-20 financial year.

We collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils. The collection is a 100% survey and as such no estimation of the figures is calculated, and hence there is no sampling error.

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Once we receive the data, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example:

- spend per head by local authority;
- arithmetic consistency checks;
- cross checks with other relevant data collections;
- thorough tolerance checks;
- outturn comparison with budgets;
- cross checks with data from other government departments;
- verification that data outside of tolerances are correct.

The data that is collected adhere to recognised professional standards. Specifically, the finance data is required under legislation and also must adhere to CIPFA accounting procedures. However, further guidelines are also available on the interpretation of these standards to ensure consistency.

Timeliness and punctuality

The data collection is carried out in April and May. The data is published in June, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the data of publication through the [upcoming calendar](#) web pages.

Accessibility and clarity

The Welsh local government finance statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. All releases are available to download for free.

More detailed data are also available at the same time on the StatsWales website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

We regularly peer review our outputs.

Comparability and coherence

Adhering to the professional code (CIPFA's SeRCOP) has meant that changes over time have been minimal. Where there have been time series which are not comparable from the start of the time series to the end this will be shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

The existence of a professional code and our adherence to it provides assurance that the data are consistent across domains, such as local authorities.

Data on school budgets are also available for [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in February 2011 following a full assessment against the Code of Practice.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Merged statistical releases to provide more coherence
- Made more data available on the StatsWales website.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/budgeted-expenditure-special-educational-needs-provision/>

Further data is available on our [StatsWales website](#).

Open data

The data is also accessible directly via the StatsWales OData service. Links to data and metadata can be found below each view on the StatsWales website within the ‘Open Data’ tab.

Next update

June 2020 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2020-21.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.finance@gov.wales.

Open Government Licence

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated.

