

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN/10090

8 February 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information - ATISN 10090

Thank you for your email request, which was passed to me on 11 January, about the West London Vocational Training College.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information in response to most of the questions you have asked and this is provided in the attached Annex under the relevant question. For questions where the Welsh Government does not hold the information, this is also clarified in the Annex.

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: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

Request for Information - ATISN 10090

Regarding your request for:

- *How many students have applied for Student Finance Wales loans and grants to attend this college since its establishment?*

I have searched our paper and electronic records and I can confirm that 303 students have applied (not approved or paid) for Student Finance Wales (SFW) loans and grants to attend this college since its establishment.

Regarding your request for:

- *What is the value of loans and grants paid out to these students so far? Please specify amounts paid in loans and grants separately in your response.*
- **What is the value of tuition fees paid to the college so far in respect of students attending the Cardiff campus?*

I have searched our paper and electronic records and I have found the following information that I have decided to release:

Effective date 30/11/2015	Amount paid
Fee Loan paid to the College	£175,500
Grants for living costs including Welsh Government Learning Grant paid to students	£185,686
Loans for living costs paid to students	£141,529

Regarding your request for:

- *How much is due to be paid in tuition fees for those students enrolled on HND Level 4 and 5 courses; and HND Level 3 courses? Again, please specify these amounts separately.*

All payments to the College and its students were suspended on 27 November 2015 and continue to be suspended until the outcomes of the South Wales Police investigation and the Quality Assurance Agency Concerns Review are known and therefore no further tuition fees are due to be paid whilst the suspension is in place. HNC is a level 4 course and HND is a level 5 course.

Level 3 courses are further education courses which are not designated for higher education support and therefore no payments are due to be made.

Regarding your request for:

- *How many of the college's students have applied for loans and grants from SFW in total?*

As above, I can confirm that 303 students have applied for Student Finance Wales (SFW) loans and grants to attend this College since its establishment. 235 students were approved for support and 126 students had received payments as at end of November 2015 when student support was suspended.

Regarding your request for:

- *Can you give us a breakdown of how many of the students being funded by SFW are registered with Pearson (Ed-Excel) exam board, and how many are registered with ATHE (Awards for Training and Higher Education)?*

I have searched our paper and electronic records and I can confirm we do not hold this information.

Regarding your request for:

- *'...a breakdown of which subjects students are being funded to study at this college', and how many students are registered for these courses*

I have searched our paper and electronic records and I have found the following information that I have decided to release:

Doc No.	Information	Context
1	Designation confirmation letter	confirming course designation at the West London Vocational Training College

Regarding your request for:

- *Have any students of this college dropped out and formally ended their studies at the college since payments were suspended by Student Finance Wales and, if so, how will you recover the monies already paid in loan/grants/tuition fees?*
- *Have any loans or grant monies been paid back yet and if so, can you specify how much?*
- *Have any tuition fees been paid back to SFW by the college owners or administrators? If so, how much?*

I have searched our paper and electronic records and I can confirm we do not currently hold any information on student withdrawals. We have no records of any loans, grants or tuition fees paid back to SFW at this juncture. The Student Loans Company is also checking its records and will respond separately to you on these questions.

I can confirm that the Education (Student Support)(Wales) Regulations 2015 state that any overpayment of student support to an institution or a student is recoverable by the Welsh Ministers (section 67). Should this action be required it will be performed by Student Finance Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government. The Regulations can be viewed at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/54/made>

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref : **A11033492**

Bharat Bageja
West London Vocational Training College
Alperton House,
4th Floor,
Bridgewater Road,
Wembley
HA01EH

4 June 2015

Dear Bharat

Thank you for providing the requested documents on behalf of West London Vocational Training College

The Minister for Education and Skills awards specific course designation for the courses and location listed in the attached schedule delivered by West London Vocational Training College. This designation is awarded under Regulation 5 (Designated Courses) of the *Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2013* (the Regulations), and is effective from **4 June 2015** for the purposes of support for fees and maintenance for eligible students, who are ordinarily resident in Wales on the first day of the first academic year of the course (or the day on which the first term of the first academic year begins, where students fall under paragraph 8 of Part 2 (Categories) of Schedule 1 (Eligible Students) of the Regulations).

Tuition fee payments made by the Student Loans Company as part of a student award are governed by the terms of the Regulations. For full-time courses, the maximum fee support will be up to £6,000 (fee loan only) for the 2014/15 academic year. Where course fees are higher than £6,000, the student must make up the difference between the £6,000 available and the amount set. Please note that this specific designation only applies to eligible students who meet the residence criteria for Wales.

The Welsh Government will be closely monitoring the numbers of students recruited by the Cardiff campus and will be requesting information post September on student recruitment with specific emphasis on recruitment of students who meet the eligibility criteria to apply for statutory student support from Student Finance Wales.

You need to be aware that the Welsh Government is currently giving consideration to new designation criteria including a requirement for providers to have charitable status. It is possible that new criteria will be introduced in 2016/17 and providers will be required to either reapply on the basis of the new criteria or be subject to a review (the details of the process are yet to be decided).

The Welsh Government also reserves the right to withhold statutory student support for new students wishing to undertake courses which have been de-designated by other UK devolved administrations.

If you have any queries regarding the above courses or associated funding, please e-mail: studentfinancedivision@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Gregory Matthews
Higher Education Division / Is-adran Addysg Uwch
Adran Addysg a Sgiliau (AdAS) / Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Schedule of Courses**Course delivery location:** Charles Street, Cardiff

Course name	Type	Code	Mode of Attendance	Course length	Location	Validated/ Awarded by
HND Business	New		Full-Time	2	Cardiff	EdExcel
HNC Business	New		Full-Time	1	Cardiff	EdExcel