



14 April 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10333 – Freedom of information request - Training for local councils

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 March 2016 about Training for local councils. The information you requested is enclosed.

You asked:

Does the Welsh Government have a budget for developing and providing training to local councils?

What training programmes you provide if you do have this facility.

It is unclear from your letter whether you are seeking information relating to Town and Community Councils or Local Authorities, so I have included responses relating to both. These focus on the training intended to support the development of corporate capacity and capability in these organisations.

Town and Community Councils

1) Does the Welsh Government have a budget for developing and providing training to local councils

Yes, the Welsh Government has a budget for developing and supporting training for Community and Town Councillors and Clerks. In 2015-16 the budget allocated was £24,000. The budget for 2016-17 is currently under consideration.

2) What training programmes you provide if you do have this facility.

The Welsh Government does not develop and provide training directly; the funding is provided to members of the National Training Advisory Group (NTAG) which has been tasked with developing and delivering a National Training Strategy (NTS) for community and town councils in Wales.



As a result of the National Training Strategy, several training modules; programmes and initiatives have now been developed by One Voice Wales and Society of Local Council Clerks with funding support from the Welsh Government. These include for councillors: The Council; The Councillor, The Council as an Employer, Understanding the Law, Council Meetings, Local Government Finance, community planning; the local government code of conduct; health, safety and welfare; and new councillor induction; and for clerks the Welsh version of the Working With Your Council programme, a continuous professional development (CPD) programme, and Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Both organisations have also been operating a bursary scheme for councils with an annual budgeted income of under £40K.

A full list of all training programmes available to community councils can be found here:

<http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/Default-7451.aspx>

Local Authorities

The Welsh Government Improvement Grant previously provided to the Welsh Local Government Association included an element of funding for the delivery of Local Authority Elected Member Training. This grant ceased at the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

However, some Elected Member training is now co-ordinated by Academi Wales, a division within Welsh Government which provides learning opportunities for leaders at all levels across the public services in Wales.

During 2015/2016 Academi Wales in partnership with WLGA and the LGA delivered two leadership programmes for councillors at no cost to local authorities funded by Academi Wales, Welsh Government. Each programme comprises of three two day modules delivered over three months. The programme is aimed at leaders of political groups, executive members, opposition spokespeople and scrutiny chairs, although many authorities view this programme as an opportunity to promote succession planning and the development of future lead members.

The first programme commenced during November 2015 in South Wales and the second during January 2016 held in North Wales. Both programmes were well attended. Plans are underway to run a further two programmes based on the same format and delivery model during 2016/2017.

In addition to the Elected Member training, learners on Academi Wales leadership programmes will typically include officers working within Local Government, as well as colleagues from the wider public services.

Full details of Academi Wales programmes can be found here:

<http://www.academiwales.org.uk/>

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