



Eich cyf/Your ref: 325683
Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 10342

29 April 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10342 Information on Welsh Government and Homelessness

Further to my e-mail of 5 April 2016 acknowledging your request for information, I am now able to provide you with the information you have requested. I do not appear to have received a response to my request for clarification of the timescales you wished the information to cover, so I am providing information covering the term of the current Welsh Government, i.e. from April 2011 to the end of the last financial year.

I have set out below our response to each question.

- 1) What are the guidelines and laws that the Welsh Government makes regarding homelessness?

In April 2015, the Welsh Government brought into effect Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. It contained new duties on Local Authorities to help prevent and relieve homelessness. The scope of the legislation ensures everyone is given help to find housing solutions if they are at risk of homelessness, with Local Authorities required to help people to prevent or relieve their homelessness. This legislation can be found through the following link.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/7/pdfs/anaw_20140007_en.pdf



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We have issued statutory guidance which provides detail on how we expect the legislation to be implemented. This Code can be found through this link.

<http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/managing-social-housing/allocate/?lang=en>

- 2) What reports and studies has the Welsh Government made into the issue of homelessness?

The reports and studies by the Welsh Government since 2011 can be found here.

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s7352/Impact%20analysis%20of%20existing%20homelessness%20legislation%20in%20Wales.pdf>

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s7353/options>

Statistical reports on homelessness and rough sleeping can be found here on our StatsWales website.

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Housing/Homelessness/Rough-Sleepers>

- 3) How much has the Welsh Government spent on the issue of homelessness?

We have awarded the following amounts under our Homelessness Grant programme over this period, which funds a range of projects which help to prevent homelessness and find accommodation for homeless people:

2015/16 - £11,331,000
2014/15 - £6,431,000
2013/14 - £8,481,000
2012/13 - £7,150,000
2011/12 – £7,321,000

Preventing homelessness is also a core objective of our Supporting People programme, which helps people find and keep a home and to live as independently as possible. Within the programme, funding spent on people who are homeless is as follows:

2015/16 - £14,114,270
2014/15 - £14,000,257
2013/14 – not available*
2012/13 – not available*
2011/12 – not available*

* Please note no separate figures were collected under this category in the period.

Whilst the sums above reflect the allocation of support specifically for people who have been homeless and are now living in the community, the Programme also helps people with a wide range of problems which can place them at risk of homelessness, such as those with mental health problems or substance misuse problems, people suffering domestic abuse, and young people leaving care.

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.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely