



Our ref/Ein cyf: ATISN 10939

19 December 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10939 - Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plans for Gwynedd.

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on 23 November.

You requested information about multiple aspects of Gwynedd's Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategic Action Plans from 2009 onwards, as follows:

- A copy of the Gwynedd ASD Strategic Action Plan 2010, and the date on which the Welsh Government received it.
- The name and/or title or position held by the person(s) responsible for recruiting stakeholder group members in Gwynedd for each year of the SAP.
- The ASD SAP grant offer letters sent to Gwynedd each year from 2009 to 2016.
- The 8 October 2008 letter from the Welsh Government detailing funding to Gwynedd for 2008-09 and guidance for its use as specified in Gwynedd's Grant Offer Acceptance letter of November 2008.
- The terms and conditions as specified in Annex A of Gwynedd's Grant Offer Acceptance letter of November 2008.
- The outturn report of expenditure requested in Gwynedd's Grant Offer Acceptance letter of November 2008, and the same for each year after that.

- The statement of expenditure details blanked out in schedule 4 of Gwynedd's Grant Offer Acceptance letter dated 18 June 2014 and any statements of expenditure of the ASD SAP grant for previous years.
- The grant award letter dated 8 August 2014 as specified in Gwynedd's Grant Offer Acceptance letter dated 6 May 2015, and all other grant award letters for each year of the ASD SAP.
- The progress report and the completed statement of expenditure form specified on page 2 of that same letter dated 6 May 2015.
- All other progress update reports sent by Gwynedd to the Welsh Government and/or /WEAG for approval of the funding for the ASD SAP each year from 2009 to 2016.
- The letters of approval for the years 2009-2016 with any targets, timescales, terms and conditions that are attached to them.
- The details of how the 2010-2013 grant for the specific purpose of developing service and support for adults with autism was spent for each year by Gwynedd and any WAG approval letters.
- The details Gwynedd gave the WAG of how the funding for each scheme, service or support was implemented effectively.
- Funding details of the Community Monitoring and Support Project and how it was spent each year by Gwynedd.
- Details of guidance given to Gwynedd in 2009 regarding recording the number of adults known to have ASD

You also requested the following information if this could be provided within the constraints of the Appropriate Limits and Fees regulations 2004:-

- The number of adults recorded in Gwynedd as having an ASD by diagnoses (i.e. autism, Asperger's syndrome, pervasive developmental disorder, high functioning autism, ASD, ASC, etc. if this information is available).
- The name(s) of the official(s) within the Welsh Government responsible at both an operational and senior management level for monitoring effective progress against these targets and timescales by Gwynedd.

The Welsh Government believes it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information in circumstances where it estimates the cost of compliance would exceed "the appropriate limit". The appropriate limit is defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. In the case of the Welsh Government the limit is set at £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these

tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time (at a standard rate of £25 per hour) the limit will have been exceeded.

In conducting just a preliminary search of electronic records held by the Health and Social Care Department on autism we have identified that at least 15 files would need to be checked each holding on average 40 documents. We could therefore be dealing potentially with 600 documents. We estimate that three minutes would be required to check each document which would mean that it would take over 30 hours to complete. This is without investigating our email records covering the whole of the period and hard files as necessary.

On this basis we consider a Section 12 exemption should be applied.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, it will be treated as a new request.

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.

The e-mail address is: 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, who 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,