

07/11/17

Dear ,

ATISN 11624 – Seren Network

Thank you for your request which I received on 10/10/17. The information you requested is enclosed below.

1. How much does the Welsh Government spend annually on the Seren Network?

The amount spent on the Seren Network has changed over time as the network has grown and developed. Figures for the last three financial years are summarised below. These include not only the cost of grants provided to individual Seren Hubs but also some staffing costs and services and support provided by, or contracted through Welsh Government. For example, in 2016-17 the overall budget supported the cost of a national conference for learners and teachers.

FY2014-15	£233,438
FY2015-16	£538,682
FY2016-17	£523,152

2. How much does the Welsh Government spend on the Seren Network in each Local Authority

As noted in the acknowledgement letter, the information requested is being provided on the basis of the 11 Seren Hubs – rather than on the basis of individual Local Authorities.

Seren Network Expenditure 2014-2015

2014-15 was the first year when the first Seren Network Development Grants went out to the first pilot Hubs.

Total recorded spend against budget was **£233,437.68**

Paid directly to the Hubs in the form of Hub Development Grants £150,000.00

RCT/Merthyr Hub	£ 50,000.00
Swansea Hub	£ 50,000.00
Wrexham/Flintshire Hub	<u>£ 50,000.00</u>
	£150,000.00

Other Expenditure **£ 83,437.68**

Seren Network Expenditure 2015-2016

Total recorded spend against budget was **£538,682.24**

Paid directly to the Hubs in the form of Hub Development Grants £300,000.00

Paid to:

EAS Hub	£ 50,000.00
Carmarthen/Pembrokeshire Hub	£ 50,000.00
Gwynedd Hub	£ 50,000.00
Conwy Denbighshire Hub	£ 50,000.00
Neath Port Talbot Powys and Bridgend Hub	£ 50,000.00
Cardiff Hub	<u>£ 50,000.00</u>
Total	£300,000.00

Other Expenditure **£238,682.24**

Seren Network Expenditure 2016-2017

Total recorded spend against budget was **£523,152.38**

Paid directly to the Hubs **£125,406.00**

Hub Development Grants

Ceredigion Hub	£ 50,000.00
Vale of Glamorgan Hub	<u>£ 50,000.00</u>
	£100,000.00

Other: additional Grants to the Hubs £25,406.00

Employer Engagement

Conwy/Denbighshire Hub £ 12,500.00
(For proposal for joint employer engagement activity between – Gwynedd/Conwy Denbighshire/Wrexham Flintshire Hubs)

Extension Grants for costs related to the Conference

Vale of Glamorgan Hub	£ 1,800.00
Conwy Denbighshire Hub	£ 1,251.00
Cardiff Hub	£ 4,000.00
EAS Hub	£ 2,000.00
Neath Port Talbot Powys and Bridgend Hub	£ 3,245.00
RCT/Merthyr Hub	<u>£ 610.00</u>
	£12,906.00

Other Expenditure **£397,746.38**

3. How many pupils have been enrolled in the Seren Network each year?

The table below indicates the numbers of pupils who have been engaged in Seren by cohort year and academic year across the 11 Hubs.

	Hub	Estimate Numbers from year 12 15/16 cohort	Estimate Numbers from year 13 15/16 cohort	Estimate Numbers from year 12 16/17 cohort	Estimate Numbers from year 12 & 13 16/17 cohort
1	Flintshire- Wrexham	82	0	103	165
2.	Swansea	255	0	306	497
3	RCT-Merthyr	135	0	120	221
4	Pembs-Carms	304	0	295	523
5	EAS	258	0	252	446
6	Cardiff	--		174	174
7	NPT, Bridgend and Powys	--		247	247
8	Conwy- Denbighshire	--		122	122
9	Anglesey- Gwynedd	--		125	125
10	Ceredigion	--		109	109
11	Vale of Glamorgan	--		202	202
	TOTAL	1034		2055	2831

Notes on these figures

- You asked for a breakdown by financial year (starting on 6 April), but the Seren network enrolls students by academic year (starting 1 September), and these are the numbers we hold.
- The hubs were launched on a rolling programme. The first five hubs were operational during the 2015-16 financial year and the remaining six were launched during the 2016-17 financial year.
- It should be noted that the figures contained within this table are approximate. These numbers were provided at various times by the hub coordinators. The hub coordinators are responsible for the recording of information.
- It should also be noted that students are recruited onto the Seren programme at the beginning of year 12. Some are also supported in year 13 as they prepare for the admissions and interview processes. During 2016-17 you can see that the Welsh Government have included the

numbers for both years 12 and 13. The Welsh Government has assumed 75% of year 12 continue to receive some level of support during year 13.

- Some hubs accept additional students who begin to show particular promise during the year.
- The individual hubs are in the process of recruiting their year 12 cohort. Therefore we do not hold the figures to support the 2017/18 cohort at this time.

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