

Our ref: ATISN 13260

22 July 2019

Dear _____,

ATISN 13260 Cost and use of Welsh

Thank you for your request which I received on 27 June 2019. You asked for:

1. The cost of having duplicate signs, documents etc in Welsh and English in South Wales?
2. The cost of providing education in the Welsh language in South Wales?
3. The proportion of the population in South Wales who speak and use Welsh as their first language?
4. The proportion of the South Wales population who are English?

Some of the information you requested is enclosed. However following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that some of the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government. Please refer to Annex 1 below.

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: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

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

ANNEX 1

1. The cost of having duplicate signs, documents etc in Welsh and English in South Wales?

We do not hold this information.

2. The cost of providing education in the Welsh language in South Wales?

The cost of providing education in the Welsh language is no different to the cost of providing education in English, as all local authorities are required to provide education in both the languages of Wales.

If pupils were not educated through the medium of Welsh, these same pupils would have to be taught through the medium of English, which would incur a similar cost.

3. The proportion of the population in South Wales who speak and use Welsh as their first language?

Unfortunately we do not hold any data on the proportion of the population who use Welsh as their first language, however we do know that 17% of pupils in year 11 are assessed for a GCSE in Welsh (first language), with an additional 38% as their second language. Unfortunately we can't break this down by north and south Wales.

The most recent Welsh Language Use survey, held in 2013-15, found that 18% of people in south Wales* could speak Welsh and that 9% spoke Welsh every day. The most recent Annual Population Survey for the year from April 2018 to March 2019 reported that 25% of people in South Wales* could speak Welsh and that 12% speak Welsh daily. It should be noted however that results from survey data are consistently higher than those from the Census.

We know that according to the 2011 Census 14% of the population of South Wales* report being able to speak Welsh.

* South Wales is defined in the paragraphs above as the following local authority areas: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport.

The latest Census in 2011 reported that 562,000 people aged 3 and over could speak Welsh, which is 19% of the population of Wales. The Annual Population Survey results have been consistently higher than the results of the Census. However the Census is the main indicator for the number of Welsh speakers.

4. The proportion of the South Wales population who are English?

According to the 2011 Census, 9% of the population of South Wales (as defined above) report that their national Identity is English (or English combined with another nationality), and 15% report that they were born in England.