

Dear

ATISN 19714 – Foster Wales

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 1st July 2024. You requested the following:

1. How much funding has been given by Welsh Government / Welsh Local Authorities since Foster Wales started and how much is committed in the future?

Since its launch on 15th July 2021, the Welsh Government has invested more than £2m of core funding to develop the infrastructure for the Foster Wales brand. The breakdown of these funds is set out in the table below. There is no commitment to this funding beyond the current financial year.

2020-21	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
£320,000	£576,100	£558,700	£558,700	560,000

Funding was also agreed in 2022 to support Foster Wales to rebalance foster care provision. The table below shows the allocation of this funding up until 31st March 2026.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
£181,048	£1,890,829	£2,074,999	£199,756

2. What targets have Foster Wales been given?

The overarching aim of Foster Wales is to rebalance service provision, address demands, and improve quality of placement choice for children by helping local authorities to realise their collective ambition of placing more fostered children within their home area, while reducing dependence on more costly options. Foster Wales's targets are to:

- Recruit an additional 800 foster carers by 2026.
- Establish 22 dedicated Recruitment Officers (1 in each LA)
- Coordinate and attend a minimum of 88 recruitment events per year across Wales.
- Increase the number of enquiries to local authority fostering provision by 25% over three years (2021 to 2024).
- Improve responsiveness to new inquiries and ensure contact is made within 1 working day (includes 100% of initial visits to be completed within 5 working days, where an applicant is available).
- Improved conversion rate from enquiry to approval of 12% (2023/2024 target)

3. How many foster parents have been recruited by Welsh Local Authorities per year since Foster Wales started?

4. How many foster parents have been approved per year by Welsh Local Authorities in the three years prior to Foster Wales receiving funding?

The Welsh Government does not collect this information.

Next Steps

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,