

3 May 2018

Dear ,

ATISN 12221 – School Budgets

Thank you for your request which I received on 5 April 2018 about School Budgets
The information you requested is below.

Responses

1. How much funding is received from Central Government for Education? How much does WAG allocate to the Education budget?

The Government of Wales Act 2006 sets out the areas of policy responsibility that are devolved to the Welsh Government, education and training is one of these areas. The Barnett formula is the mechanism that is used to allocate funding to the Welsh Government from the UK Government. This funding comes in the form of a block grant with no specified amounts for different policy areas. The Welsh Government is responsible for making decisions on how this block grant is allocated as part of the annual budget process.

For 2018-19, the Education budget has been allocated £2,351,777,000 and £2,490,667,000 for 2019-20.

Further information on the Welsh Government final budget is available from the following link:

<http://gov.wales/funding/budget/final-budget-2018-19/?lang=en>

2. Why has funding to schools for Sixth formers been reduced this year?

Funding for Local Authority Sixth Forms has reduced by 6.23%.

For school sixth forms, the Welsh Government allocates funding to Local Authorities (LAs) based upon a formula developed and agreed with the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW). The formula takes a predicted number of learners and an average programme value for the LA and multiplies the two to give an initial allocation. Uplifts for deprivation, sparsity and Welsh medium are then added to this value to give a final allocation. In addition, for 2018-19, an increase of 1 per cent has been given to the unit rate of funding for all post-16 learning (excluding Adult Community Learning).

Both the headcount prediction and the average programme value are calculated based upon census data submitted and verified by the LA. The deprivation uplift was varied in line with the overall change to allocation.

Any reduction in sixth form funding at a LA is directly linked to either a reduction in the predicted headcount or a reduction in the average amount of activity undertaken by the learners in that authority.

It is then the responsibility of the LA to determine how they allocate the total amongst their schools as they are better placed to understand the needs of their local schools. Further, the LA is under no obligation to reflect the national formula in their local allocations to their schools.

3. Do Sixth formers in Welsh medium schools receive the same funding per head as English medium schools?

Sixth form learners in Welsh medium schools receive the same core funding per head as English medium schools.

In recognition of the additional costs relating to Welsh-medium and bilingual provision an additional small allowance is provided to relevant LA to recognise the work involved in providing education in monolingual and bilingual settings.

Additional costs relating to all settings include:

- translation and additional preparation costs of curriculum materials across subject areas;
- training to improve the language skills of teachers and lecturers and/or commissioning the services of additional staff with Welsh-medium expertise;
- higher recruitment and retention costs of Welsh speaking staff;
- bilingual management and administration costs such as correspondence, policies and documentation.

It is then the responsibility of the LA to determine how they allocate the total amongst their schools as they are better placed to understand the needs of their local schools. Further, the LA is under no obligation to reflect the national formula in their local allocations to their schools.

4. Is the WBQ/Skills challenge certificate compulsory for all pupils in Wales at both KS4 and KS5? Would there be a problem if a school did not offer this qualification?

There is no legislation that requires learners to undertake any qualification (including the Welsh Baccalaureate). There are subjects within the school curriculum that must be taught by schools and studied by school learners but examinations are not compulsory.

In line with the Review of Qualifications, the Welsh Government continues to encourage universal adoption of the Welsh Baccalaureate. The Cabinet Secretary for Education wrote to all Chief Education Officers in December 2016 setting out her priorities for school 6th forms and FE colleges, and her expectations that the Skills Challenge Certificate was to be included in the programme of learning for all 16-19 full

time learners. We will be measuring and reporting the take-up and attainment of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stages 4 and 5 and will follow-up if there are concerns around meeting that expectation. There are currently no financial or legislative penalties for not offering the Welsh Bacc.

5. Is there a figure per head given to schools for the number on roll at KS3 and KS4? If so, how much is this? Is it the same for both Welsh and English medium education?

The Welsh Government does not fund schools directly. The main funding we provide to Local Government for schools is unhypothecated. LAs in Wales are responsible for schools funding and each Authority sets its budget for schools against a local funding formula and in consultation with all schools through the Authority's schools budget forum.

Once budgets are set, LAs provide the Welsh Government with financial information relating to LA budgets for schools, including their delegated schools budgets, and we publish this information on StatsWales and highlight in annual statistical bulletins. There is no information held on the figures per head at KS3 and KS4 as requested, only per pupil basis at each school.

The most recent bulletin on LA budgeted expenditure on schools for 2017-18 is available at the following web address:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-budgeted-expenditure-schools/?lang=en>

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