



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

25 February 2020

Dear ,

ATISN 13737 – Affordable Housing Grant/Social Housing Grant to Local Authorities

Thank you for your request which I received on 29 January 2020. In respect of Affordable Housing Grant/Social Housing Grant to Local Authorities for new homes, you asked:

- How much was allocated by the Welsh Government to each local authority in Wales to help kick start social housing programmes in their areas covering both capital and revenue allocations? When was the scheme due to start from and end?
- What has the Welsh Government been told that each local authority has spent from the funds originally allocated to them? How many homes have been built under this initiative and what are the figures for each local authority?
- How much does the Welsh Government estimate from information supplied to them that each local authority will return as unspent under this scheme?
- Is the Welsh Government inviting bids from local authorities for money returned by the end of March 2020? If so, how much is available?

The information that you have requested is enclosed:

Affordable Housing Grant

Welsh Government provides funding for additional council housing delivered by stock retaining Local Authorities through Affordable Housing Grant (AHG) programme. In order to help stock retaining Local Authorities to build new council housing, revenue funding totalling £71.5m over a 29 year period is being provided, with the first payments

Llywodraeth Cymru
Cathays Parc
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

being made in 2018/19. It is anticipated that over 400 additional council homes will be delivered through this grant funding.

Under the AHG programme – the additional council housing will be delivered in the early years of the programme but the grant payments to support these will be made over 29 years.

Annex 1 shows the revenue allocations made to each stock retaining Local Authority in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Applications for the funding can only be made during the period 1st April 2018 to 31 March 2020. From 2020/2021 onwards payments will continue at the level approved and agreed in 2019/20.

Annex 2 shows the forecast spend as at 31 March 2020 as all grant payments will be made in March 2020.

The number of affordable homes built under **all** grant funded initiatives are published on the statswales.gov.uk website. A link to the relevant data is included below.

Filtered data:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/v/HUcj>

Full data set is available at:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Affordable-Housing/Provision/additionalaffordablehousingprovision-by-location-year-funding>

The revenue allocation of £2.5m in 2019/20 will be fully spent by 31 March 2020. All stock retaining Local Authorities were asked to submit details of additional affordable housing schemes that could be delivered if funding was to become available.

Any underspend arising in a stock retaining Local Authority area will therefore be reallocated to an affordable housing scheme in another stock retaining Local Authority.

Social Housing Grant

The Social Housing Grant Programme (SHG) provides a funding allocation to each Local Authority who in turn allocates the funding to affordable housing schemes delivered by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Applications for grant payment by the RSLs are made direct to Welsh Government. The programme is longstanding and does not have an end date.

SHG is not currently available for use on Local Authority schemes. The independent Affordable Housing Supply Review carried out in 2019 recommended that access to grant be made available to Local Authorities. Welsh Government has accepted this recommendation and work on implementing the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Supply Review is currently underway. The full report can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/independent-review-affordable-housing-supply-launches>

Annex 3 shows the capital spend (2018/19) and allocation (2019/20) in each Local authority area.

The funding allocated to each Local Authority for 2019/20 is fully allocated to affordable housing schemes being delivered by RSLs.

Welsh Government are not aware of any underspend in the SHG programme this year to date, as the programme is still being delivered. Payments will be made up until 31 March 2020 to ensure the programme is fully spent.

All Local Authorities are asked to provide details of affordable housing schemes, delivered by RSLs, which can take up additional funding should it become available.

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: Freedomofinformation@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 – Affordable Housing Grant

Revenue Allocations to Stock Retaining Local Authorities

| Local Authority Area | Revenue Funding Amount per annum | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| | 18/19 | 19/20 |
| Caerphilly | 144,155 | 240,259 |
| Cardiff | 315,881 | 526,468 |
| Carmarthenshire | 148,259 | 247,098 |
| Denbighshire | 81,033 | 135,055 |
| Flintshire | 116,397 | 193,995 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 69,859 | 116,431 |
| Pembrokeshire | 114,693 | 191,156 |
| Powys | 119,223 | 198,704 |
| Swansea | 207,000 | 345,000 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 82,614 | 137,691 |
| Wrexham | 100,886 | 168,143 |
| Total | 1,500,000 | 2,500,000 |

Annex 2

Affordable Housing Grant

Forecast spend as at 31st March 2020

| Local Authority Area | Forecast Spend 2019/20 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Caerphilly | 65,880 |
| Cardiff | 526,468* |
| Carmarthenshire | 247,098 |
| Denbighshire | 135,055* |
| Flintshire | 193,995 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 115,901 |
| Pembrokeshire | 191,156* |
| Powys | 198,704 |
| Swansea | 345,000* |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 137,691 |
| Wrexham | 168,143 |

*denotes that spend includes forecast amounts based on scheme applications made to Welsh Government.

The above figures are before the reallocation of any LA underspend as this work is currently underway.

From 2020/21 payments will continue at the agreed 2019/20 level.

Annex 3

Social Housing Grant

| Local Authority | SHG Spend 2018/19 | SHG Allocation 2019/20 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blaenau Gwent | 3,525,565 | 2,789,037 |
| Bridgend | 6,429,672 | 5,086,444 |
| Caerphilly | 8,097,884 | 6,406,148 |
| Cardiff | 17,730,640 | 14,037,478 |
| Carmarthenshire | 6,982,169 | 6,588,487 |
| Ceredigion | 3,607,818 | 2,916,856 |
| Conwy | 5,490,261 | 4,343,287 |
| Denbighshire | 4,436,929 | 3,601,046 |
| Flintshire | 6,538,549 | 5,172,575 |
| Gwynedd | 5,909,539 | 4,766,752 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 3,628,012 | 3,104,454 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1,363,774 | 2,216,723 |
| Monmouthshire | 3,955,175 | 3,801,222 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 6,277,891 | 4,966,372 |
| Newport | 7,982,362 | 6,314,760 |
| Pembrokeshire | 6,442,871 | 5,096,885 |
| Powys | 6,699,200 | 5,298,149 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 9,505,809 | 7,738,336 |
| Swansea | 11,628,131 | 9,198,888 |
| Torfaen | 5,003,073 | 4,620,514 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 4,400,135 | 3,671,309 |
| Wrexham | 2,170,466 | 4,483,276 |
| Totals | 137,805,925 | 116,219,000 |