



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Date: 11 March 2020

Dear ,

ATISN 13789 – ND – Support for Welsh-language Teaching

Thank you for your request that I received on **14 February 2020** regarding the amount Welsh Government has spent on sending Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) in Wales on sabbatical courses, in order to learn the Welsh language, since the inception of the Sabbatical Scheme. The information you requested is provided as follows:

Welsh Government has contracted with Bangor University, UW Trinity Saint David and Cardiff University to deliver Sabbatical Scheme courses at various levels and locations across Wales.

The cost of each course is made up of two elements; (1) Provision / course delivery costs; and (2) a Sabbatical Element, which comprises supply costs and participant travel costs.

The Mynediad (Entry-level) course has been part of the Sabbatical Scheme's provision since 2011. It is a full-time course that is five weeks in duration. It is aimed at TAs and HLTAs who work in English-medium primary schools. To date 595 practitioners have benefited from the training. The costs of the delivery of the course are as follows:

Academic Year	No. Courses	Cost of Provision / course delivery	Cost of Sabbatical Element (Supply Costs + Participant Travel Costs)	Total
2011/12	5	£52,500	£122,500	£175,000
2012/13	8	£84,000	£196,000	£280,000
2013/14	7	£73,500	£171,500	£245,000
2014/15	5	£52,500	£12,250	£175,000
2015/16	7	£74,683	£171,500	£246,183
2016/17	6	£65,334	£147,000	£212,334
2017/18	7	£91,959	£171,500	£263,459
2018/19	5	£66,915	£122,500	£189,145
			Total	£1,786,121

The Advanced course for TAs and HLTAs was first trialled in 2014/15 and became part of the Sabbatical Scheme's national provision in 2015/16. This course is part-time (20 days over one academic term) and aimed at TAs and HLTAs in Welsh-

medium primary schools. To date 230 practitioners have benefited from this training. The costs of the delivery of the course are as follows:

Academic Year	No. Courses	Cost of Provision / course delivery	Cost of Sabbatical Element (Supply Costs + Participant Travel Costs)	Total
2014/15	1	£28,677	£13,000	£41,677
2015/16	3	£86,031	£39,000	£125,031
2016/17	6	£172,062	£78,000	£250,062
2017/18	5	£134,990	£65,000	£199,990
2018/19	2	£55,290	£26,000	£81,290
			Total	£698,050

Welsh Government's total investment in supporting TAs and HLTAs to undertake Welsh-language teaching since the inception of the Sabbatical Scheme is **£2,484,171**.

An independent evaluation of the Sabbatical Scheme, including the Cymraeg Mewn Blwyddyn course, has been commissioned and is due to report in the summer term.

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

