



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 13797

16 March 2020

Dear,

### **ATISN 13797 - Government Expenditure on Mental Health**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) which I received on 17 February. You requested the following regarding Government expenditure on Mental Health.

- *Details of Welsh Governments spending plans regarding Mental Health for 20/21, and where possible, this overall figure should indicate:*
  - a) Specific regional areas,*
  - b) Individual institutions and*
  - c) Charity organisations.*
- *What corporate governance audits have been undertaken to confirm the funds that have been allocated are being effectively and efficiently managed by the recipients.*

The majority of the funding for mental health services is within the main NHS discretionary allocation. We do not set specific budgets for each clinical area as Health Boards are responsible for managing the totality of their budget, and making the best use of all available resources.

For Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) and prescribing costs, Health Boards are responsible for commissioning services for their resident population.

However, within the discretionary funding allocation, mental health funding is protected and 'ring-fenced'. There is no flexibility about the use of this funding, although Health Boards are free to invest additional funding in these services to meet national priorities. This funding forms a floor, below which expenditure on core mental health services must not fall. This does not exclude mental health services from making efficiencies, but these savings must be re-invested in these services to meet cost increases and new developments.

Compliance of individual organisations with the ring fencing requirement is monitored on an annual basis. Any organisation whose expenditure on mental health services falls

below the ring fenced quantum will be required to account for the shortfall in expenditure.

This link will direct you to the allocation document which is published annually as a Welsh Health Circular on the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/health-circulars> Table 2 details the total amount of the mental health ring fence, shown by relevant allocation stream and Health Board.

Retrospective analysis of Health Board spending on clinical areas is available on the Stats Wales website under 'NHS Programme Budgets', see link below: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Health-Finance/NHS-Programme-Budget>

In addition to the above there are a number of mental health budgets that are held centrally by Welsh Government and will be issued during the financial year to Health Boards, Local Authorities and the third sector. Funding that is allocated will include specific monitoring arrangements which are defined at the point of award of funds.

The following is a summary of the budgets held centrally for 2019-20:

<b>Central Funding for Mental Health in the Health &amp; Social Services Group 2019-20</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>£m</b>
Mental Health Service Improvement Fund	7.000
Mental Health and Older People	17.231
A Healthier Wales Mental Health	14.300
Mental Health Services	3.207
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.738</b>

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](mailto: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,