



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 14698
Date: 29 January 2021

Dear

ATISN 14698

Thank you for your request which I received on 23 December 2020. You asked for the following information:

I understand from the media that the UK Government has made £5.2 billion available to the Welsh Government to be spent during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please may I have a list, including amounts, of how that money has been spent and a total amount of how much money is unspent.

I would also like to know if that money isn't spent this financial year - guessing before 1st April - can the money be rolled over to the next financial year or does it have to be given back?

The Welsh Government's spending plans for 2020-21 were published and approved by the Senedd in March 2020. Since then, the Welsh Government has published two Supplementary Budgets (June and October 2020) providing details of the funding the Welsh Government has received since as a result of COVID-19 spending measures in England and a full account of allocations made since the final Budget 2020-21 was approved in March. These documents can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/1st-supplementary-budget-2020-2021>

<https://gov.wales/2nd-supplementary-budget-2020-2021>

Since then, the UK Government has provided an additional £0.8bn by way of guarantee funding in anticipation of planned expenditure in England.

The Welsh Government has made a number of spending decisions relating to COVID measures in Wales since October. They include, for example, providing £450m to support businesses under alert level three and four restrictions, an extra £10.7m for the Cultural Recovery Fund and an extra £40m to support students facing financial hardship.

Responding to, and the mitigating the impact of, the pandemic continues to be fast-moving and agile in order to respond to how the virus is evolving. For this reason, some areas of expenditure will have to be increased, with others reduced, to reflect latest forecasts of spend by portfolio. Full details of the Welsh Government's final spending plans for 2020-21 will be published in a Third Supplementary Budget on 9 February and voted on in the Senedd on 9 March.

In terms of reporting on actual expenditure, the Welsh Government is aiming to publish the Welsh Government's Annual Accounts in the autumn which will show outturn expenditure against the budget.

Under the Welsh Government's Fiscal Framework (an agreement between the Welsh Government and the UK Government), the Welsh Government can make payments in to the Wales Reserve which can hold up to £350m in aggregate. However, given the exceptional circumstances this year, the Welsh Government is seeking from the UK Government additional budgetary flexibilities to carry forward COVID funding into 2021-22 on top of the normal limits. A copy of the Fiscal Framework can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-agreement-between-the-welsh-government-and-the-united-kingdom-government-on-the-welsh-governments-fiscal-framework>

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