



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15203

Date: 2 July 2021

Dear

### ATISN 15203

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 June 2021. I have provided the information requested against each of your questions, as follows:

1. How many days in sickness absence were taken in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 by Welsh Government employees?

See table 1 below.

2. How many of these days were taken classed as short term and long term sickness absences?

See table 1 below.

3. The top five reasons for taking sickness leave in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21?

The top five reasons remain constant year-on-year, namely Mental Health (including stress); Respiratory System (inc. Colds); Musculoskeletal System; Digestive System (inc. Food Poisoning); and Nervous System (inc. Headaches).

4. The number of days taken for stress-related sickness leave in the above years?

See table 1 below – stress-related sickness leave is recorded under the broader category of 'Mental Health (including stress)' in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

5. How many employees who took sickness absence returned to work and how many did not?

See table 2 below. The reasons for individuals not returning to work vary and include retirement on grounds of ill health, resignation, retirement and death in service.



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS  
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

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Table 1

Year	Total number of sickness absence days	Short Term	Long term	Mental Health, including Stress
2018-19	40,385	16,545	23,840	11,494
2019-20	35,612	18,321	17,291	10,149
2020-21	26,418	12,103	14,315	10,129

Table 2

Year	Total number of staff who took sickness absence	Total number of staff who returned to work	Total number of staff who did not return to work
2018-19	2,944	2,920	24
2019-20	2,943	2,905	38
2020-21	1,882	1,867	15

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