



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 August 2021

Dear

ATISN 15351 Discretionary Assistance Fund

Thank you for your request which I received on 23 July 2021. You asked for:

1. Do you require applicants to have attempted other sources of support or take out an advance on their benefits before you will accept a DAF application? If yes, please specify.

2. If an applicant is not successful, do you direct them to other sources of help? If yes, please specify.

3. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on administration costs as opposed to direct grants in 2020/21?

4. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on the provision of furniture and/or white goods in 2020/21?

5. If you do provide furniture and/or white goods, what percentage of these items are provided as:

- a) New items
- b) Preloved/reused items
- c) A loan for furniture/white goods
- d) Cash for furniture/white goods
- e) Other (please specify)

6. For each of the 22 principal areas, please provide us with the following information for the financial year 2020/21.

- a) Spend
- b) Number of applications
- c) Number of grants awarded

7. Have you provided any additional funding for direct grants beyond the DAF in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, excluding any self isolation payments? If yes:

- a) What was the name of the scheme/s
- b) Spend/s

c) Number of grants awarded

d) Please identify what form of support was offered with percentages, (eg 20% direct cash grants, 10% direct grants for furniture/white goods etc).

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

Next steps

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

1. Do you require applicants to have attempted other sources of support or take out an advance on their benefits before you will accept an DSF application? If yes, please specify.

The DAF is a fund of last resort and all applicants are asked as part of their application if they have sought and are waiting for financial support from another source. In some situations applicants applying for an EAP are asked if they have applied for an advance on their benefits, if appropriate. However there is no requirement for this support to be applied for before a DAF application can be made and considered.

2. If an applicant is not successful, do you direct them to other sources of help? If yes, please specify.

Yes – refusal letters signpost applicants to Citizens Advice Cymru. The DAF is also working with Citizens Advice to provide wider support for more financially vulnerable applicants.

3. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on administration costs as opposed to direct grants in 2020/21?

13.2% of the overall DAF expenditure was spent on administration.

4. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on the provision of furniture and/or white goods in 2020/21?

£8.034 million was spent on furniture and white goods during 2020/21 which equates to 36% of the overall DAF expenditure.

5. If you do provide furniture and/or white goods, what percentage of these items are provided as:

- a) New items 100%
- b) Preloved/reused items
- c) A loan for furniture/white goods
- d) Cash for furniture/white goods
- e) Other (please specify)

6. For each of the 22 principal areas, please provide us with the following information for the financial year 2020/21.

- a) Spend
- b) Number of applications
- c) Number of grants awarded

The table below shows a breakdown of applications and value for each of the 22 local authorities, in FY 2020/21.

Local Authority	Applications	Paid	Value
Blaenau Gwent	14800	9032	£866,342.71
Bridgend	17943	11012	£1,159,149.98
Caerphilly	25717	16086	£1,652,395.97
Cardiff	55913	34922	£3,826,354.22
Carmarthenshire	16622	10452	£1,214,236.26
Ceredigion	2508	1559	£235,331.61
Conwy	10578	6565	£790,295.50
Denbighshire	11605	7109	£776,531.99
Flintshire	13277	8393	£887,960.33
Gwynedd	11074	6988	£798,727.46
Isle of Anglesey	5559	3492	£448,245.58
Merthyr Tydfil	14650	9189	£871,820.92
Monmouthshire	4336	2666	£371,215.91
Neath Port Talbot	20562	12906	£1,318,842.92
Newport	29529	18373	£1,972,726.28
Pembrokeshire	7767	4630	£589,009.06
Powys	4599	2781	£333,012.91
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	37196	22814	£2,323,816.94
Swansea	31121	19536	£1,821,555.00
Torfaen	13521	8547	£996,133.71
Vale of Glamorgan	13629	8701	£1,039,467.59
Wrexham	19619	12328	£1,271,504.24
TOTAL	382125	238081	£25,564,677.09

Q7. Have you provided any additional funding for direct grants beyond the DAF in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, excluding any self isolation payments? If yes:

a) What was the name of the scheme/s

b) Spend/s

c) Number of grants awarded

d) Please identify what form of support was offered with percentages, (eg 20% direct cash grants, 10% direct grants for furniture/white goods etc).

The £1m Carers Support Fund was launched in late October 2020 with an additional £0.25m made available at the end of January 2021 in recognition of the substantial demand identified through the first phase of delivery. The fund was openly advertised and promoted to a broad range of audiences nationally and locally.

A breakdown of the support provided is listed below:

Beds, bedding or mattress – 3.92%

Digital (including mobiles and data) - 13.06%

Entertainment (including wellbeing boxes and subscriptions) - 2.59%

Food – 35.13%

Household Bills – 1.78%

Household items (including furniture and carpets) - 24.82%

Laptops, chromebooks or tablets – 7.69%

White goods – 11.00%