

Dear

### **ATISN 17520 – Apprenticeship Levy**

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 May. You asked for:

Apprenticeship Levy income from education providers and special schools for Wales for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23; and financial benefits received by education providers and special schools for Wales for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

### **Our response**

The information you require on Apprenticeship Levy income from education providers and special schools is not held by the Welsh Government, although we do hold limited information on ‘financial benefits’ relating to apprenticeships for training providers and special schools.

The Apprenticeship Levy is a UK wide employment tax collected by the UK Government. Treasury [data](#) shows the Welsh government received £128m in 2017-18, £133m in 2018-19, and £138m in 2019-20 from the Apprenticeship Levy. Funding related to the Apprenticeship Levy was fully included in the Barnett formula process after 2019-20. As such, it is not possible to separately identify funding specifically from the Levy after 2019-20.

Under the Barnett formula, changes to funding in Wales are driven by changes in expenditure in England on programmes that are devolved – rather than by revenues. The introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy resulted in additional costs to Welsh public sector bodies who are liable to pay the levy. It also coincided with the closure of previous apprenticeship programmes in England, which greatly reduced the amount of new funding available in England and therefore also to the Welsh Government via the Barnett formula. Taking these factors into account, the introduction of the levy had little overall impact on the Welsh Government’s resources and no direct impact on the already established apprenticeship programmes in Wales.

Changes to funding in England on programmes which are devolved in Wales result in changes to our block grant via the Barnett formula (this could result in additional funding or reductions in funding). However, those changes do not determine what the block grant should be spent on. It is for Welsh Ministers, with the Senedd’s approval, to decide how to allocate the Welsh Government’s budget - which includes funding from the block grant, devolved taxes, and capital borrowing.

Of the 20,040 apprenticeship starts in 2021/22, 1,480 had at least one employment period in the education sector. 65 of the apprenticeship starts had at least one employment period in a maintained special school in Wales.

*Note: numbers are rounded to the nearest 5; information is for 2021/22 contact year only as the employer dataset with industry codes wasn’t available for 2020/21 and data for 2022/23 is incomplete and unpublished.*

### **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](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