

Ein cyf / Our ref: ATISN 19641

Dyddiad / Date: 27/06/2024

Dear ,

ATISN 19641 – Request for information about children’s homes in Wales.

Thank you for your request which we received on 31/05/2024.



You asked for the following information:

- 1. The number of placements of individual children that have been made with children’s services providers Operating Without Registration (OWR) across all 22 Welsh local authorities since January 2022. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority, covering all OWR placements since January 2022.*
 - a. Of these placements, further broken down by how many attributable to Local Authority providers, private providers, and voluntary providers.*
- 2. The number of new children’s homes registrations since January 2022 across all 22 Welsh local authorities. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority and by who has registered the provision (local authority, private provider, voluntary provider).*
- 3. Confirmation of CIW enforcement action in relation to children’s homes across all 22 Welsh local authorities, including closures since January 2022. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority and provider type (local authority, private provider, voluntary provider).*

Our response

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you requested held by CIW is attached as follows.

Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC)
Swyddfeydd Llywodraeth
Sarn Mynach
Cyffordd Llandudno
Conwy
LL31 9RZ
www.arolygiaethgofal.cymru

 0300 790 0126
 ciw@gov.wales

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
Government Offices
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ
www.careinspectorate.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

1. **The number of placements of individual children that have been made with children's services providers Operating Without Registration (OWR) across all 22 Welsh local authorities since January 2022. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority, covering all OWR placements since January 2022.**
 - a. **Of these placements, further broken down by how many attributable to Local Authority providers, private providers, and voluntary provider.**

We are unable to provide the exact data you requested. The data we hold about placements of children within services operating without registration in Wales is attached at **Annex 1 Table 1**. This is broken down by provider type and by the local authority who placed the child where we have this information.

However, this data is not representative of the actual number of children who have been placed in a care home for children operating without registration as children may be moved several times between services operating without registration. We do not have unique identifiers for each child and are therefore unable to account for moves, or report on this. The data provided is therefore the number of occurrences of children being placed in a care home for children operating without registration, rather than the number of individual children, which would be lower.

We must ensure that any information we disclose could not inadvertently identify any individual people to which that data relates, particular vulnerable children. This means we are unable to provide a breakdown of this data on a month-by-month basis because where the number of children for a particular month and local authority is low, there is a risk of individual children being identified from that data when this is put into the public domain. We have therefore provided the totals for the date range requested, however where the number of children for any individual local authority is less than 5, we have not given the specific figure but recorded that it is less than 5 (<5). The overall total number of placements is included.

2. **The number of new children's homes registrations since January 2022 across all 22 Welsh local authorities. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority and by who has registered the provision (local authority, private provider, voluntary provider).**

Data on new children's homes registered since January 2022 by local authority and provider type is enclosed at **Annex 1, Table 2**. This is further broken-down by month of registration at **Table 2a**.

Please note, we have interpreted 'new' children's homes to mean any new registrations of children's homes where the premises was not previously registered as a children's home. The data does not therefore include new registrations of existing children's homes that re-registered under a new provider.

3. ***Confirmation of CIW enforcement action in relation to children's homes across all 22 Welsh local authorities, including closures since January 2022. Broken down month-by-month and by local authority and provider type (local authority, private provider, voluntary provider).***

Our approach to taking enforcement action is set out in our [Securing Improvement and Enforcement Policy](#). Actions we may take to support providers to improve include issuing Priority Action Notices where failings are identified. If we do not see improvement following this, we may then take enforcement action e.g. cancelling a provider's registration.

Data on Priority Action Notices issued in respect of children's homes since January 2022 by local authority and provider type is enclosed at **Annex 1, Table 3**. This is further broken-down by month of issue at **Table 3a**.

Data on providers of care homes for children that have had the registration of that care home cancelled under enforcement since January 2022, by local authority, provider type and by month of cancellation, is enclosed at **Table 3b**.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with our 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