

19 July 2024

Dear

ATISN 19578 Looked after children data: Internal Review

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 14 May. You asked for the following information:

Information held within the Looked After Children Census dataset, broken down by year and by local authority between 2003 and 2023.

Number of children who were placed into a placement with the H5 code.

Number of children under the age of 12 broken down by year with the H5 code.

Number of children under the age of 12 with the H5 code who spent over 1 week in their placement, broken down by year.

Number of children who were placed into a placement with a the P2 code.

Number of children under the age of 12 broken down by year with the P2 code.

Number of children under the age of 12 with the P2 code who spent over 1 week in their placement.

The Welsh Government responded to this request however you stated that the information provided was not what had been requested, as such an internal review in relation to your FOI request has been conducted. The review was conducted as outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#).

I have looked at your original request and what was provided and can see that the information excluded children looked after exclusively under a series of short breaks. Your request was responded to on the basis that published data on children looked after typically excludes those in short breaks and this has been common practice historically when reporting the number of children looked after.

Children looked after under short break agreements are a special group. These children normally live at home and are provided with breaks away from home for short periods, normally going to the same carer or the same residential establishment. During the breaks, children are voluntarily accommodated under Part 6 section 76 of the 2014 Act; they are not otherwise 'looked after'.

You have since clarified that you are interested in the data initially provided including children looked after under a series of short breaks from the Children Looked After dataset.

The information you have requested, including children looked after under a series of short breaks, can be found at Annex 1.

Data on children looked after under a series of short breaks is not quality assured to the same extent as this is not published in our statistical releases. Prior to 2016-17 local authorities could record the pattern of short breaks by either recording each short break as an individual episode or recording the existence of an agreement as a single on-going episode of care. From 2016-17, only the later should be recorded.

The additional information you requested will be responded to under a separate FOI request, ATISN 19724, by 2 August.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

**Chief Digital Officer
Welsh Government**

Annex 1

Children looked after placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March by local authority, 2003 to 2012 [Note 1][Note 2]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Isle of Anglesey	0	*	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	0	*	*
Conwy	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0
Powys	*	*	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Carmarthenshire	*	*	0	*	*	*	0	*	*	*
Swansea	*	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	*	5	10	10	15	15	15	20
Bridgend	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	*
Cardiff	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	*	*	*	0	*	*	0	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	*	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Newport	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	0	0	0
All Welsh local authorities	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	20	20	30

Source: SSDA903 return, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Includes children looked after under a series of short breaks where either the child was in a short break, or a short break agreement was in place, on 31 March.

[Note 2] All figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Where there are fewer than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed and replaced by the symbol *.

Children looked after placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March by local authority, 2013 to 2023 [Note 1][Note 2]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	*	5
Gwynedd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	*
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	5	*	*	*
Wrexham	*	*	0	*	5	*	*	0	*	0	*
Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	*	10
Ceredigion	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	5
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	*	*	5
Carmarthenshire	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Swansea	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	5	10	10	15
Neath Port Talbot	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	*	*	10	10	*	5	10
Vale of Glamorgan	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	*	*	10	10	10	5	*	30
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	5
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	*	5	5	*	5	15	*	15	5	15	25
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	5
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	10	*
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	5	5	*	*	*	*	10
Newport	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Welsh local authorities	25	25	10	10	25	35	35	55	45	55	160

Source: SSSA903 return and Children looked after census, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Includes children looked after under a series of short breaks where either the child was in a short break, or a short break agreement was in place, on 31 March.

[Note 2] All figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Where there are fewer than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed and replaced by the symbol *.

At a Wales level there were 22 children under the age of twelve placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March between 2003 to 2023.

As requested, a local authority breakdown is provided but these are zero or redacted due to small numbers and the associated risk of disclosure. The table below is for 31 March 2003 to 2014. No children under the age of twelve were placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March 2015 to 2023.

Children looked after under the age of twelve placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March by local authority, 2003 to 2014 [Note 1][Note 2]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Welsh local authorities	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Source: SSDA903 return, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Includes children looked after under a series of short breaks where either the child was in a short break, or a short break agreement was in place, on 31 March.

[Note 2] All figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Where there are fewer than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed and replaced by the symbol *.

Due to the existence of planned series of short breaks having been recorded as single ongoing episodes of care (covering the entirety of agreements) it is not possible to determine the length of time when children were actually looked after in placements.

For children under the age of twelve not looked after under a series of short breaks placed in hostels and supportive residential settings other than a care home service for children (H5 code) on 31 March, all had spent over one week in their placement.

The number of children looked after placed in independent living (P2 code) on 31 March can be found on StatsWales: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social->

[Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After/childrenlookedafterat31march-by-localauthority-placementtype](#)

No children looked after exclusively under a series of short breaks were placed in independent living (P2 code) on 31 March 2003 to 2023.

No children under the age of twelve were placed in independent living (P2 code) on 31 March 2003 to 2023.