

9 October 2024

Dear

ATISN 21947 Pensioner poverty

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 September 2024. You asked for:

- 1) Any relevant modelling undertaken by the Welsh Government to assess the projected increase in pensioner poverty in Wales as a result of the withdrawal of the winter fuel allowance.
- 2) The projected number of additional pensioners that will be in poverty by the end of 2024.
- 3) The number of pensioners in Wales who are eligible for pension credits but do not receive them.
- 4) The number of pensioners who are currently classified as being in poverty, and the actual metric by which poverty is measured in this context.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested under points 1) – 3) above is not held by the Welsh Government. In relation to the number of pensioners in Wales who are eligible for pension credits but do not receive them (point 3), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does publish [estimates of take-up for income-related benefits](#). This includes an estimated take-up rate for Pension Credit in Great Britain as a whole (the equivalent figure for Wales is not published).

In terms of the information requested under point 4) above, this is published in the data section of the following [webpage](#) and is outlined in the paragraph below for ease.

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data shows that in the financial year ending (FYE) 2021 to the FYE 2023, there were 100,000 pensioners in relative income poverty in Wales. HBAI data defines a person to be living in relative income poverty if they live in a household where the total household income from all sources is less than 60% of the average UK household income (as given by the median). The figure above relates to relative income poverty after housing costs such as mortgage interest payments/rent, water rates and structural house insurance were paid.

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