



Date issued: 28 January 2019

Number of annual returns and Welsh language translation costs

I am writing in response to the request for information you made on 28 December 2018, which was explained on 01 January 2019, requesting information on the number of annual returns and the costs of translating the Welsh language.

For your convenience, I have included your questions below before setting out our response.

How many community and town Councils send their annual return, and all information, evidence and any Other documents in Welsh only:

2014/15

2015/16

2016/17

2017/18

For the period 2014-15, the Auditor General appointed auditors to audit the accounts of Local Authorities in Wales, including Community councils. Local government auditors are separate office holders and are not Public Authorities under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Therefore, there is no right of access under that act to information held by specified auditors. I affirm that the Auditor General for Wales (who is subject to the FOIA) does not keep copies of the information asked for regarding 2014-15.

For 2015/16, 2016/14 and 2017/18, the community and town councils were scrutinised on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales by the companies BDO and Grant Thornton, as well as Wales Audit Office Staff .

We do not have complete specific records of the numbers of annual returns, and supporting information and evidence, received through the medium of Welsh for 2015/16, 2016/14 and 2017/18 as BDO, Grant Thornton and the Wales Audit Office record information in different ways.

However, I can provide some information below, which may be of interest.

The following numbers of Welsh language annual returns and supporting documents have been submitted to the Wales Audit Office.

2015/16: 4

2016/17: 4

2017/18: 3

Grant Thornton hold information on the number of Audit reports published in Welsh, such as the shown below.

2015/16: 34

2016/17: 36

2017/18: 50

BDO has information that sets out the number of system folders that store Welsh documents, and is shown the numbers below.

2015/16: 97

2016/17: 85

2017/18: 79

What was the total amount associated with translating what was received in Welsh from Community and Town Councils in the auditing of annual forms

2014/15

2015/16

2016/17

2017/18

We do not hold records that correspond to this description.

As explained above, information for 2014/15 will not be maintained as the audits are conducted under appointed auditors' arrangements.

In relation to 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18, I can confirm that BDO or Grant Thornton do not record the cost of translation separately. The contracts are provide on the for the provision of audits done in Welsh and English and translation costs are not something that can be raised [by them].

Where audit work is undertaken on Welsh language annual returns and supporting information by WAO staff they themselves have appropriate Welsh language skills.

If you have any queries or questions about the way in which I have handled your application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
Information Officer