

4 March 2026

Dear

I am writing in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to be provided with information on the questions listed in your email dated 17 February 2026.

- 1) Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, how many have a school currently in special measures?
- 2) How many PLCs / PRUs in Wales are currently in special measures?
- 3) Percentage of secondary schools (11–16/18) in special measures in other LAs in comparison to all secondary schools within those LAs
- 4) Schools in special measures operating an asymmetric week

Under FOIA, Estyn is required to:

- (i) confirm or deny whether it holds the information of the description specified in the request
- (ii) communicate the information requested to the applicant

If Estyn releases information in response to a Freedom of Information request, this is essentially a decision that the information can be released in response to any similar request from any member of the public.

In response to your queries, I confirm the following responses. The information below reflects the position as at 27/02/2026. Where relevant, figures relate to maintained schools inspected by Estyn and that are currently in the statutory category of special measures.

1) Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, how many have a school currently in special measures?

As at the date above, 16 of the 22 local authorities in Wales have at least one school currently in special measures. For clarity, this figure includes maintained primary, secondary and special schools, as well as pupil referral units (PRUs), where applicable.

2) How many PLCs / PRUs in Wales are currently in special measures?

As at the same date, 2 pupil referral units (PRUs), are currently in special measures.

This figure relates specifically to settings formally designated as PRUs under local authority arrangements.

3) Percentage of secondary schools (11–16/18) in special measures in other LAs in comparison to all secondary schools within those LAs

The number of schools in Wales and per local authority frequently change, such as through amalgamations, closures and the establishment of new schools. Please find a link to the Welsh Government website [here](#). that will give you the information on the number of schools per local authority. This may be useful for you to calculate the ratio/percentage of schools in special measures.

The number of secondary schools (11–16/18) currently in special measures in each local authority is set out below. Please note that we inspect schools on a regular basis and these numbers are subject to change:

Local authority	Number of Secondary Schools in Special Measures
Flintshire	2
Powys	2
Wrexham	2
Cardiff	1
Conwy	1
Merthyr Tydfil	1
Pembrokeshire	2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1
Neath Port Talbot	1

To calculate the ratio of these schools in comparison to the overall number of schools per local authority you need an authoritative denominator dataset covering all maintained secondary schools by local authority. The correct source is the Welsh Government official school census data, not Estyn inspection data. Welsh Government publishes an annual dataset derived from the PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census). The information you require is publicly available [here](#).

4) Schools in special measures operating an asymmetric week

Estyn does not hold this information.

Estyn does not hold a national dataset identifying which schools operate an asymmetric week as part of its core inspection database. Estyn inspection outcomes do not categorise schools by timetabling model as a standard data field.

You may wish to refer your enquiry to individual local authorities as they may hold information regarding schools which operate asymmetrical weeks. Any Wales-wide comparison would depend on verified information provided by local authorities or Welsh Government sources.

With regard to attendance, national attendance data is published by Welsh Government. Estyn does not independently compile attendance statistics disaggregated by timetabling model. Any analysis of attendance patterns in relation to asymmetric week arrangements would therefore require reference to Welsh Government statistical releases.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. If you are not satisfied with the response Estyn has made regarding your request for information, you are entitled to request that we review the matter. Your request for a review should be addressed to the Feedback and Complaints Manager and received no later than 20 working days after the date of this communication.

If you are still not satisfied, you also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01624 524510

Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Governance Manager