



Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/PO/166/2023

6 June 2023

Dear Jenny Rathbone MS,

Thank you for your question following my Oral Statement on Electoral Reform made in Plenary on 16 May.

You asked that I share data on which local authorities accepted Welsh Government funding to improve electoral registration. This information can be found attached at Annex A.

We can say with certainty that all local authorities that appointed a Welsh Government-funded Electoral Registration Support Officer (ERSO) increased registration among newly enfranchised groups. Data detailed in Annex A supports our stance, with each local authority who was a recipient of grant funding and employed an ERSO reporting an increase in registered newly enfranchised voters.

It should be noted that local authorities who did not employ an ERSO mentioned either problems with recruitment, leaving them unable to employ, or not having the internal capacity to run a recruitment drive for this post as reasons why one was not in place. Some of those local authorities that did not appoint an ERSO also increased registration, although to a lesser extent. Local authorities that appointed an ERSO were very positive about the impact of the increased capacity, with many citing increased ability to engage face to face with target groups at schools or in community groups.

Those Local Authorities who did not receive funding for an ERSO were under no obligation to share data with us, this is reflected with Denbighshire and Newport not submitting data.

I hope this information is of use to you and I look forward to working with you towards our common goal of increasing democratic participation in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**  
**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad**  
**Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution**

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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.

Data relating to registration figures received from Local Authorities for 16–17-year-olds, following May 2022 Local Government Elections in Wales and links with Electoral Registration Support Officers (funded via Welsh Government grant funding of £25,000).

Local Authority	ERSO in place?	16–17 Yr Olds registered 2021 Senedd Elections 2021 (LA Figure)	16–17 Yr Olds registered 2022 Local Elections (LA Figure)	% 16–17 Yr Olds registered 2022 Local elections	% change 16–17-Yr Olds registered to vote
Blaenau Gwent	✓	704	985	69.70%	32.91%
Cardiff	✓	2546	3022	40.97%	18.70%
Carmarthenshire	✓	1425	1883	45.85%	32.14%
Ceredigion	✓	902	1008	69.04%	11.75%
Gwynedd	✓	994	1737	70.55%	74.74%
Neath Port-Talbot	✓	1432	1833	61.74%	28.00%
Powys	✓	963	1738	62.63%	80.48%
Torfaen	✓	888	1103	57.30%	24.21%
Vale Of Glamorgan	✓	2098	2275	76.47%	8.44%
Bridgend	✓	1669	1767	56.10%	5.87%
Conwy	✓	1477	1510	64.83%	2.23%
Isle Of Anglesey	✓	791	1058	74.61%	33.75%
Monmouthshire	✓	968	1314	61.81%	35.74%
Swansea	✓	1425	2501	47.47%	75.51%
Pembrokeshire	✓	1332	1528	57.79%	14.71%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	X	2194	2592	49.74%	18.14%
Caerphilly	X	2185	2072	49.40%	-5.17%
Denbighshire	X	960	<b>Not provided</b>	N/A	N/A
Flintshire	X	2192	2235	65.70%	1.96%
Merthyr Tydfil	X	491	574	44.05%	16.90%
Newport	X	1857	<b>Not provided</b>	N/A	N/A
Wrexham	X	1585	1686	56.44%	6.37%

Registration data has been collected from local authorities for 16/17-year-olds and turnout data collected from local authorities (substituted with figures from Wales Online<sup>1</sup> article in case of Wrexham and Gwynedd).

Local authorities who were recipient of grant funding for an ERSO were required, as per the grant conditions, to submit registration data. As Newport and Denbighshire were not subject to these conditions, they were not obligated to provide us with the requested data.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/voter-turnout-every-council-wales-23994360>