



Senedd Website

17 December 2021

Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 25 November in which you asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Senedd:

- 1. The number of times websites were rejected access in 2019, 2020 and this year... by the Senedd's filtering systems?*
- 2. The breakdown of the rejected access requests (What topic? i.e. pornography etc)*
- 3. What were the main websites that were rejected access?*

Please find attached our response to your request. *(Please request this data from Information-requests@Senedd.wales)*

We are in the process of migrating to a new web filtering application and have two systems ("Legacy" and "Current") that currently hold this information.

The data provided is for the period 01-02-2021 – 01-12-21 and split across the legacy filtering system and the current system (shown on separate tabs on the spreadsheet). We do not hold any earlier data.

It should be noted that the reports we have been able to produce from both systems, not only show the number of times users have been prevented from opening content they have deliberately tried to access, but also any content that has been automatically blocked, such as adverts and other unwanted technical content. Our systems record every item of blocked content. Therefore, it is often the case that a single page visit can generate multiple blocks. E.g. a visit to a legitimate news site may generate advertising

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content that is blocked by our systems due to the type of advert e.g. gambling. Each block is recorded in the figures provided. For example, the highest blocked category on the Legacy system report is "Productivity Instant Messaging" – this relates to blocks on sites such as Gmail where the main site can be accessed, but instant messaging such as Google Hangouts is blocked by our systems.

The response provides a total figure for both systems and then a breakdown based on questions 2 and 3 of your request.

Yours sincerely

Buddug Saer
Freedom of Information Manager
Welsh Parliament

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the **Code of Practice on Public Access to Information**. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Parliament's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at:

Information-request@senedd.wales or in writing to

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