

APPENDIX C

STATUTORY NATIONAL TESTING FOR PUPILS IN Y2 –Y9

Introduction

The report outlines the scope of the testing process within primary and secondary schools, the pupil outcomes and comparisons to the teacher assessment process at Y2, Y6 and Y9.

Context

The annual tests that all Y2-Y9 children take at schools in Wales are part of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF). The tests were introduced in May 2013. Their main aims are to:

- Give schools an accurate gauge of individual children's skills and abilities.
- Help drive up literacy and numeracy standards in children throughout Wales.
- Provide a clearer picture of how children are performing nationally.

The tests are paper-based and take between 30 and 60 minutes each (although children who need longer because of additional needs will be given extra time). Although it is up to each school how to administer them, it is recommended that children in Y2 and Y3 have a chance to sit the tests in smaller chunks of 20 minutes or 30 minutes at a time. The reading tests span year groups: Y2 and Y3 take the same test, as do Y4 and Y5, and also Y6 and Y7. Children read a passage before answering a mixture of multiple choice questions and questions needing short, closed responses like ordering, pairing and underlining. The numeracy part of the test last for 30 minutes; children are tested on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A 30-minute reasoning test assesses how well they can apply calculation skills to everyday problems. Unlike the reading test, there is a separate numeracy test for each year group.

Primary schools administered tests between the 5 - 12th May 2015; secondary schools between the 29th April and 12th May 2015. The tests were marked internally at the school according to detailed guidance and the data was uploaded to the Welsh National Tests Data Collection. Provisional data was returned to schools by the end of the summer term in order to be shared with parents and carers.

EAS on behalf of the LA undertake the statutory responsibility to monitor the assessment arrangements in at least 10 per cent of their schools. The LA must ensure that assessment arrangements are in accordance with the test administration timetable and test administration guidance. EAS carry out a programme of monitoring visits during any of the following periods.

- The week before the tests are administered to learners.
- The period during which the tests are administered to learners.
- Up to 20 school days after the last day on which any of the tests have been administered to learners.

Pupil Outcomes

Standardised tests in English reading and maths measure the child's achievement compared to other children in all schools across Wales at the same age level. Scores below Standard Score (SS) (85) are considered below average, 85 -115 are considered to be within the average range and SS over 115 is considered to be above average.

In 2014-15, the combined performance of all year groups in the English reading tests at SS85+ matched performance at SS115+ in terms of local authority rankings in Monmouthshire, with performance in Monmouthshire highest in Wales.

Overall LA rankings at SS85+ align closely to Teacher Assessment rankings in Foundation Phase, key stages 2 and 3 with the exception of numeracy reasoning. LA rankings for Teacher Assessment at the expected level + 1 have not yet been published. (See page 6)

Progress measures in English and Welsh reading tests

The progress measure shows whether a learner's improvement in reading or numeracy each year is in line with that of other learners taking the same test. No one performs consistently all of the time. Small changes are most likely due to how the learner performed on this particular test on the particular day of testing. Larger changes, or a trend in changes, may give a stronger indication of the learner's progress

Overall, LA increases within the region at S85+ and SS115+ exceeded national increases in 6 out of 10 cases for English and 5 out of 10 for Welsh. Among the most significant increases relate to the Welsh reading tests in Monmouthshire at SS85+ (3.8 points compared with -0.1 points for Wales).

Conversely, performance in the Welsh reading tests dropped by more than one point at SS115+ in Monmouthshire.

	Reading - En		Reading - We	
	85+	115+	85+	115+
Blaenau-Gwent	2.6	1.2	0	4.1
Caerphilly	3.4	0.6	1.4	-1.1
Monmouthshire	3.6	-0.2	3.8	-1.5
Newport	3.5	1.3	1.5	-0.7
Torfaen	3.7	-1.2	-1	3.5
Wales	3.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.4

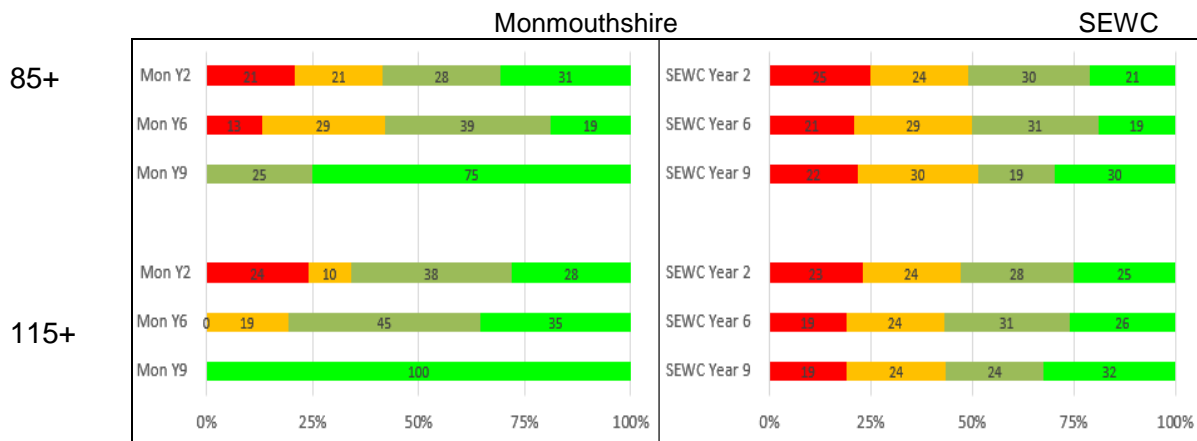
Benchmark performance in national reading tests compared with Teacher Assessment performance LLC / English (Years 2, 6 and 9)

EAS Regional benchmark performance for the reading tests was average overall in 2015, with roughly 25% schools in each quarter in all key stages at both SS85+ and SS115+

Performance was strongest in key stage 3, with nearly a third of schools in the top quarter (SS85+: 31% / SS115+: 32%). Conversely, benchmark performance for Teacher Assessment was stronger in Foundation Phase and key stage 2 than for key stage 3.

Significantly fewer schools were in the bottom quarter at the expected levels in years 2 and 6 for Teacher Assessment (possibly reflecting the impact of writing on the overall level awarded), compared with performance in the tests at SS85+. In key stage 3, more schools were in the top quarter for the test, than for Teacher Assessment at level 5+. At level 6+, more schools were in the bottom quarter than for SS115+.

Primary benchmark performance in Monmouthshire was well above average at SS115+. Performance at SS85+ was relatively stronger in year 2 than year 6 (31% schools in the top quarter compared with 19% in year 6); conversely performance at SS115+ was stronger in year 6 than in year 2 (no school in the bottom quarter in Y6 compared with 24% schools in year 2). In year 9, Monmouthshire performance was strong and well above average: 75% of schools in the top quarter at SS85+, and 100% at SS115+.



Performance in national numeracy tests (2014-15)

In four out of five LAs, the combined performance of all year groups was similar in the procedural and reasoning tests in terms of LA rankings for standardised scores of SS85+. In Monmouthshire, performance was relatively weaker in reasoning than for the procedural test, as in 2014 (2015: Performance 8th in Wales / FSM ranking: 2nd). See page 7.

LA rankings in national numeracy procedural tests at SS85+ align more closely to Teacher Assessment rankings in Foundation Phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3, than to rankings for the numeracy reasoning tests.

Progress measures

Within the region, increases in LA averages at SS 85+ and SS 115+ for 2015 exceeded national figures in 45% cases. In the procedural test, increases were significantly higher than Wales averages. In Monmouthshire, increases were above national averages for three out of four indicators. In the reasoning test, increases were larger than national figures in Monmouthshire at 115+.

	Procedural		Reasoning	
	85+	115+	85+	115+
Blaenau-Gwent	3	-0.1	3.5	1.4
Caerphilly	1.8	1.5	3.5	1.4
Monmouth	1.1	1.6	2.6	2.9
Newport	0.3	0.2	2.4	0.6
Torfaen	0.5	0.9	2.3	1.7
Wales	1	0.5	2.8	2

Benchmark performance: National numeracy tests compared with TA performance in mathematics

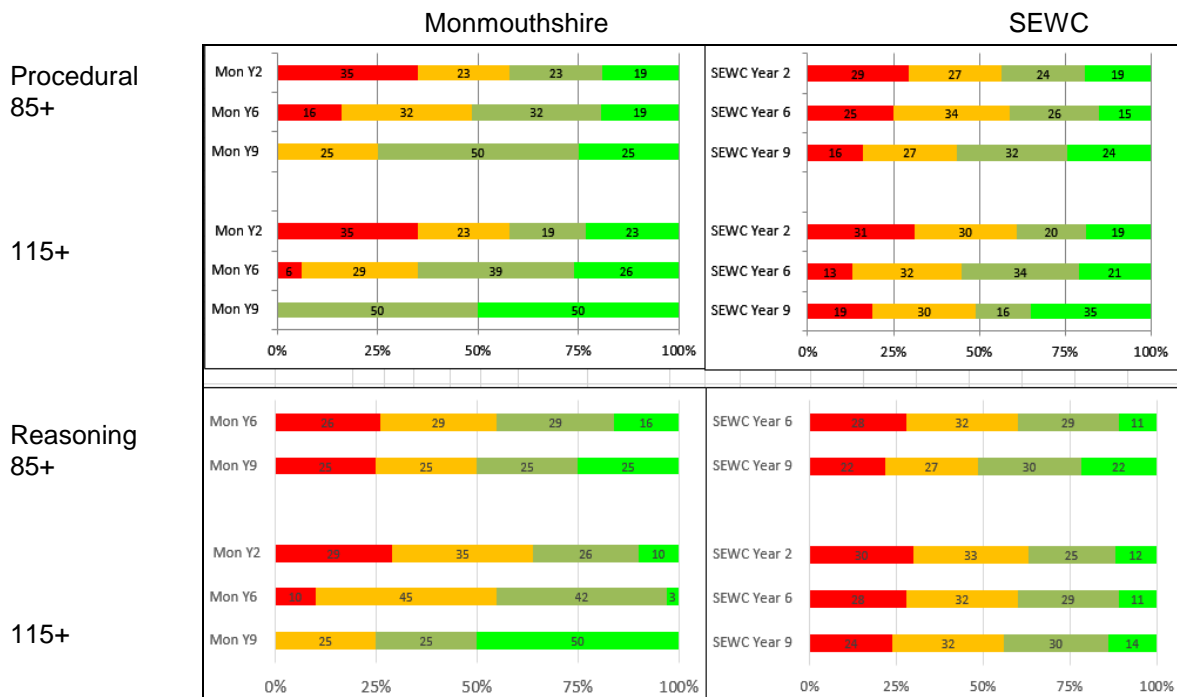
Consortium performance (Y2, Y6, Y9)

Regional benchmark performance in the national numeracy tests was below average overall in 2015, with more than half the schools below the median in 8 out of 12 indicators.

Performance was above average in the procedural test in KS2 at SS115+, both tests at SS85+ in KS3 and the procedural test at SS115+ in KS3.

Performance was stronger in year 9 than in years 2 and 6, contrary to Teacher Assessment benchmarks where key stage 3 performance was well below average at the expected level (only 36% schools above the median compared with 61% in Foundation Phase and 56% at key stage 2).

In the primary phase (years 2 and 6), with the exception of the year 6 procedural test at SS115+, there were fewer than 50% of schools above the median, and significantly more schools in the bottom quarter than in the top quarter.



Year 2

Regional performance in year 2 was broadly similar to Monmouthshire across the four measures, but below average overall.

Year 6

Regional performance was above average in the procedural test at SS115+, but below average for three of the four measures and weakest in the reasoning test at SS115+.

Performance was above average in the procedural tests at SS85+ in Monmouthshire. and at SS115+ in 3 Local Authorities including Monmouthshire.

Monmouthshire had too few schools in the top quarter, particularly in the reasoning tests (16% at 85+ and 3% at 115+).

Year 9

Regional benchmark performance was above average in year 9, with over a third in the top quarter in the procedural test at SS115+ and only 16% schools in the bottom quarter at SS85+. Performance was well above average in Monmouthshire at both SS85+ at SS115+.

Attendance and disapplication (Reading and numeracy tests)

In order for national test data to include all pupils in years 2 to 9, a standardised score of 'below 85' is awarded to any pupil disappplied from the tests at the discretion of the headteacher, as well pupils who were absent throughout the test period.

In 2015, the combined absence/disapplication figure was higher than last year in Monmouthshire for all three tests, (reading, procedural and reasoning tests).

In Monmouthshire, the percentage of pupils absent for the reading and procedural tests was well above last year's figure and close to the Wales average.

Addressing the variation between teacher assessment and test results

Literacy and numeracy team members have analysed the data for all schools in the region and compared it against the teacher assessment in school.

For Year 2 classes, the EAS English and Literacy team will focus on narrowing the gap by working with schools that all have a Benchmark Quartile (BQ) difference of 2-3 using schools with less variation within their LAs to support. Language coordinator meetings will focus more specifically on Teacher Assessment supporting and guiding teachers in the teaching and assessment of reading including evidence gathering for verification purposes

English: Immediate support with Teacher Assessment and teaching within KS3 and KS4. EAS planned intervention is currently taking place to support Heads of Department and their staff. Visits to schools have been arranged to view good practice.

Mathematics: Issues to be discussed as part of the 'professional interviews' taking place with mathematics adviser, head of mathematics and senior leaders during the autumn term. National moderation materials will be disseminated to all Heads of Departments in November network meetings. Spring term visit to schools where performance at Teacher Assessment is significantly different to that of their tests results will take place.

Challenge Advisers will address the issue with headteachers in their schools as part of the categorisation process. Where there are significant differences between test results and teacher assessment, Step 2 of the categorisation process will potentially alter.

In response to the outcomes of the Literacy tests, the LA is working with the Literacy Team to design bespoke project which will be piloted in 2 clusters and will begin in January 2016.

Teacher Assessment and National Testing Comparison - Literacy

Teacher Assessment: ENGLISH (Expected levels)
 Outcome 5+ Level 4+ Level 5+
 Year 2 Year 6 Year 9

Reading Tests
 SS<85 SS115+
 Years 2 – 9 ('all years')

LA FSM
 ranking

LLC English		English		English		Reading (<85)		Reading (115+)		2015 FSM% (Pupils aged	FSM			
1	Ceredigion	94.0	1	Vale of Glamorgan	93.5	1	Monmouthshire	8.9	1	Monmouthshire	24.9	1	Powys	10.9
2	Monmouthshire	93.3	2	Monmouthshire	93.4	2	Ceredigion	9.6	2	Vale of Glamorgan	23.2	2	Monmouthshire	11.4
3	Vale of Glamorgan	92.7	3	Anglesey	93.2	3	Vale of Glamorgan	92.1	3	Powys	20.1	3	Ceredigion	11.9
4	Powys	91.5	4	Powys	91.9	4	Powys	91.9	4	Ceredigion	11.3	4	Swansea	18.7
5	Pembrokeshire	91.1	5	Newport	91.5	5	Conwy	91.4	5	Swansea	11.4	5	Cardiff	18.4
6	Bridgend	90.5	6	Ceredigion	91.1	6	Flintshire	91.4	6	Pembrokeshire	11.8	6	Pembrokeshire	18.3
7	Newport	90.2		Swansea	90.9	7	Gwynedd	91.3	7	Anglesey	11.9	7	Ceredigion	18.2
8	Caerphilly	90.1	8	Pembrokeshire	90.5	8	Pembrokeshire	88.6	8	Flintshire	12.3	8	Conwy	17.4
9	Flintshire	89.0	9	Flintshire	90.1	9	Bridgend	88.6	9	Carmarthenshire	12.3	9	Carmarthenshire	16.9
10	Torfaen	88.7	10	Gwynedd	90.0	10	Carmarthenshire	88.4	10	Bridgend	12.5	10	Flintshire	16.8
	Wales	88.0	11	Carmarthenshire	90.0	11	Anglesey	87.9	11	Gwynedd	12.7		Wales	16.6
11	Cardiff	87.9	12	Cardiff	89.9		Wales	87.9	12	Conwy	13.2	11	Bridgend	16.5
12	Denbighshire	87.6	13	Wrexham	89.8	12	Denbighshire	87.8		Wales	13.4	12	Gwynedd	15.7
13	Wrexham	87.2	14	Denbighshire	89.7	13	Swansea	87.6	13	Denbighshire	13.7	13	Newport	15.1
14	Merthyr Tydfil	87.2		Wales	89.6	14	Merthyr Tydfil	87.2	14	Cardiff	13.9	14	Wrexham	15.0
15	Blaenau Gwent	87.0	15	Bridgend	89.5	15	Newport	87.2	15	Neath Port Talbot	14.2	15	Anglesey	14.9
16	Swansea	87.0	16	Merthyr Tydfil	89.3	16	Torfaen	86.9	16	Wrexham	14.4	16	Torfaen	14.5
17	Rhondda Cynon Taf	86.8	17	Caerphilly	89.3	17	Cardiff	86.7	17	Newport	14.9	17	Neath Port Talbot	14.3
18	Anglesey	86.1	18	Conwy	88.5	18	Wrexham	86.1	18	Rhondda Cynon Taf	15.1	18	Denbighshire	14.2
19	Conwy	86.1	19	Rhondda Cynon Taf	88.0	19	Rhondda Cynon Taf	86.0	19	Torfaen	15.3	19	Caerphilly	14.1
20	Carmarthenshire	83.4	20	Blaenau Gwent	87.9	20	Neath Port Talbot	84.2	20	Merthyr Tydfil	15.7	20	Rhondda Cynon Taf	13.1
21	Neath Port Talbot	82.8	21	Torfaen	87.1	21	Blaenau Gwent	83.8	21	Caerphilly	16.4	21	Merthyr Tydfil	12.9
22	Gwynedd	*	22	Neath Port Talbot	85.3	22	Caerphilly	83.7	22	Blaenau Gwent	19.0	22	Blaenau Gwent	9.3

Teacher Assessment and National Testing Comparison - Numeracy

Teacher Assessment (Expected levels)

Outcome 5+
Year 2

Level 4+
Year 6

Level 5+
Year 9

Numeracy Tests SS<85

Years 2 – 9 ('all years')

LA FSM
ranking

FP		KS2		KS3		85+		85+		LAFSM% ranking	
Mathematical Development		Mathematics		Mathematics		Procedural (85+)		Reasoning (85+)		2015 FSM% (Pupils aged 5-15)	FSM
1	Ceredigion 94.5	1	Monmouthshire 94.7	1	Gwynedd 93.4	1	Ceredigion 9.0	1	Ceredigion 7.2	1	Powys 10.9
2	Monmouthshire 93.9	2	Vale of Glamorgan 93.7	2	Ceredigion 92.8	2	Vale of Glamorgan 9.2	2	Powys 7.6	2	Monmouthshire 11.4
3	Vale of Glamorgan 93.9	3	Anglesey 93.5	3	Flintshire 92.0	3	Monmouthshire 9.9	3	Vale of Glamorgan 7.7	3	Ceredigion 11.9
4	Powys 92.7	4	Powys 92.5	4	Monmouthshire 92.0	4	Carmarthenshire 9.9	4	Gwynedd 7.8	4	Gwynedd 13.3
5	Caerphilly 91.9	5	Ceredigion 92.2	5	Powys 91.8	5	Swansea 10.1	5	Swansea 8.3	5	Vale of Glam 13.5
6	Pembrokeshire 91.7	6	Gwynedd 91.3	6	Vale of Glamorgan 91.4	6	Anglesey 10.3	6	Carmarthenshire 8.4	6	Flintshire 14.9
7	Bridgend 91.5		Swansea 91.3	7	Conwy 91.1	7	Gwynedd 10.3	7	Anglesey 9.0	7	Pembrokeshire 16.3
8	Gwynedd 90.4	8	Newport 91.2	8	Carmarthenshire 90.4	8	Powys 10.6	8	Monmouthshire 9.2	8	Wrexham 16.6
9	Newport 90.2	9	Flintshire 90.9	9	Denbighshire 89.7	9	Pembrokeshire 12.4	9	Pembrokeshire 9.2	9	Conwy 17.1
10	Flintshire 90.2	10	Pembrokeshire 90.8	10	Cardiff 89.3	10	Bridgend 12.5	10	Flintshire 9.8	10	Carmarthenshire 17.2
11	Torfaen 90.1	11	Wrexham 90.4	11	Anglesey 88.9	11	Flintshire 12.8	11	Bridgend 10.8	11	Isle of Anglesey 17.4
12	Carmarthenshire 89.8	12	Carmarthenshire 90.4		Wales 88.7		Wales 12.9	12	Denbighshire 10.8	12	Torfaen 18.8
	Wales 89.7	13	Denbighshire 90.2	12	Pembrokeshire 88.6		Neath Port Talbot 12.9		Wales 11.0		Wales 18.8
13	Denbighshire 89.4		Wales 90.2	13	Swansea 87.9	13	Wrexham 13.5	13	Wrexham 11.0	13	Denbighshire 19.0
14	Anglesey 89.4	14	Merthyr Tydfil 90.1	14	Bridgend 87.8	14	Cardiff 13.6	14	Neath Port Talbot 11.6	14	Swansea 19.8
15	Cardiff 89.4	15	Bridgend 90.0	15	Merthyr Tydfil 87.5	15	Merthyr Tydfil 13.7	15	Conwy 12.1	15	Bridgend 20.0
16	Rhondda Cynon Taf 89.1	16	Cardiff 89.9	16	Rhondda Cynon Taf 87.3	16	Denbighshire 14.0	16	Cardiff 12.2	16	Newport 20.4
17	Swansea 89.0	17	Conwy 89.5	17	Newport 86.7	17	Rhondda Cynon Taf 15.1	17	Rhondda Cynon Taf 12.4	17	Cardiff 22.2
18	Wrexham 88.7	18	Caerphilly 89.3	18	Torfaen 86.5	18	Conwy 15.3	18	Merthyr Tydfil 13.1	18	RCT 22.5
19	Merthyr Tydfil 88.1	19	Blaenau Gwent 89.0	19	Caerphilly 86.1	19	Caerphilly 15.8	19	Torfaen 14.2	19	Caerphilly 23.3
20	Conwy 87.9	20	Rhondda Cynon Taf 88.9	20	Wrexham 85.9	20	Newport 16.1	20	Caerphilly 14.5	20	Merthyr Tydfil 23.4
21	Blaenau Gwent 86.0	21	Torfaen 87.3	21	Blaenau Gwent 85.1	21	Torfaen 16.6	21	Newport 14.9	21	Neath PT 23.7
22	Neath Port Talbot 85.2	22	Neath Port Talbot 85.8	22	Neath Port Talbot 83.4	22	Blaenau Gwent 19.1	22	Blaenau Gwent 18.4	22	Blaenau Gwent 29.2

Numeracy Testing All Year Groups

SS85+

FSM

SS115+

Procedural

Reasoning

Procedural

Reasoning

Years 2 – 9 ('all years')

Years 2 – 9 ('all years')

Procedural (85+)			Reasoning (85+)			2015 FSM% (Pupils aged 5-15)		FSM		Procedural (115+)			Reasoning (115+)		
1	Ceredigion	9.0	1	Ceredigion	7.2	1	Powys	10.9	1	Vale of Glamorgan	21.9	1	Gwynedd	23.5	
2	Vale of Glamorgan	9.2	2	Powys	7.6	2	Monmouthshire	11.4	2	Monmouthshire	21.6	2	Vale of Glamorgan	22.3	
3	Monmouthshire	9.9	3	Vale of Glamorgan	7.7	3	Ceredigion	11.9	3	Swansea	20.3	3	Ceredigion	22.2	
4	Carmarthenshire	9.9	4	Gwynedd	7.8	4	Gwynedd	13.3	4	Ceredigion	19.1	4	Powys	21.0	
5	Swansea	10.1	5	Swansea	8.3	5	Vale of Glam	13.5	5	Carmarthenshire	19.0	5	Swansea	20.6	
6	Anglesey	10.3	6	Carmarthenshire	8.4	6	Flintshire	14.9	6	Gwynedd	18.3	6	Anglesey	20.4	
7	Gwynedd	10.3	7	Anglesey	9.0	7	Pembrokeshire	16.3	7	Cardiff	18.1	7	Carmarthenshire	20.1	
8	Powys	10.6	8	Monmouthshire	9.2	8	Wrexham	16.6	8	Bridgend	17.1	8	Monmouthshire	19.8	
9	Pembrokeshire	12.4	9	Pembrokeshire	9.2	9	Conwy	17.1	9	Anglesey	16.7	9	Pembrokeshire	17.5	
10	Bridgend	12.5	10	Flintshire	9.8	10	Carmarthenshire	17.2	10	Powys	16.1	10	Bridgend	17.1	
11	Flintshire	12.8	11	Bridgend	10.8	11	Isle of Anglesey	17.4	11	Wales	16.0	11	Flintshire	16.9	
12	Wales	12.9	12	Denbighshire	10.8	12	Torfaen	18.8	12	Neath Port Talbot	15.1	12	Wales	16.8	
13	Neath Port Talbot	12.9	13	Wales	11.0	13	Wales	18.8	13	Pembrokeshire	14.6	13	Cardiff	16.7	
14	Wrexham	13.5	14	Wrexham	11.0	14	Denbighshire	19.0	14	Flintshire	14.6	14	Denbighshire	16.4	
15	Cardiff	13.6	15	Neath Port Talbot	11.6	15	Swansea	19.8	15	Wrexham	14.0	15	Wrexham	15.7	
16	Merthyr Tydfil	13.7	16	Conwy	12.1	16	Bridgend	20.0	16	Conwy	13.8	16	Conwy	15.6	
17	Denbighshire	14.0	17	Cardiff	12.2	17	Newport	20.4	17	Caerphilly	13.7	17	Neath Port Talbot	14.2	
18	Rhondda Cynon Taf	15.1	18	Rhondda Cynon Taf	12.4	18	Cardiff	22.2	18	Merthyr Tydfil	13.2	18	Rhondda Cynon Taf	13.0	
19	Conwy	15.3	19	Merthyr Tydfil	13.1	19	RCT	22.5	19	Rhondda Cynon Taf	13.1	19	Torfaen	13.0	
20	Caerphilly	15.8	20	Torfaen	14.2	20	Caerphilly	23.3	20	Newport	13.0	20	Caerphilly	12.6	
21	Newport	16.1	21	Newport	14.5	21	Merthyr Tydfil	23.4	21	Denbighshire	12.7	21	Newport	12.3	
22	Torfaen	16.6	22	Newport	14.9	22	Neath PT	23.7	22	Torfaen	12.6	22	Merthyr Tydfil	11.6	
23	Blaenau Gwent	19.1	23	Blaenau Gwent	18.4	23	Blaenau Gwent	29.2	23	Blaenau Gwent	9.2	23	Blaenau Gwent	8.7	