



ATISN 14510

16 December 2020

Dear ,

**ATISN 14510 – Covid-19**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 4 November. You asked for:

1. *Scientifically and medically please provide evidence to this strain of Coronavirus being more harmful than other Coronavirus pandemics such as swine flu, bird flu, SARS and MARS.*

Welsh Government does not hold any information on the comparison of SARs-COV-2 with other viruses and their relative harm, although this information is available in several medical and scientific journals. It should also be noted that there have not been widespread outbreaks of SARs or MERs in Wales.

Public Health Wales (PHW) publishes statistics regarding Covid-19 on their website, which can be found at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

The UK Government has also published a number of evidence papers relating to transmission and mortality rates which is available on the SAGE webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies>.

2. *Deaths that have been recorded as 'Covid19' please provide evidence, beyond reasonable doubt that these death were solely due to a patient contracting the disease and dying purely from this and not ANY other underlying cause or illness.*

Public Health Wales (PHW) publishes statistics regarding Covid-19 on their website, which can be found at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

*3. Please supply scientific and medical evidence to back up the reasons for ALL lockdown restrictions, evidence to support the 5 mile travelling restriction we had in the summer.*

The Technical Advisory Cell has published the evidence behind its advice regarding the fire break and travel restrictions which is available at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOV19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

For 5 mile travelling restrictions the Technical Advisory Cell has published a paper on genomic lineages and the role of imports from other parts of the UK, this paper is available here: <https://gov.wales/genomic-analysis-covid-19-lineages-wales>

*4. Please provide extensive evidence that the NHS COULD become overwhelmed with infections resulting from SARS-COV-2 and the EXACT reason why you believe the NHS would suffer.*

Without the actions taken such as the National 'firebreak' the NHS could be overwhelmed and exceed capacity. The evidence for this is attached in the fire breaks paper, available at <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks>.

If the NHS becomes overwhelmed, there is a strong likelihood that staff would not have sufficient resource to deal with patients suffering from Covid-19 it and this would significantly affect and inhibit other non-Covid-19-related service activity.

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

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,