



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14448

10 December 2020

Dear

ATISN 14448 – COVID-19 Shutdown

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 19 October. You asked for copies of the scientific evidence and salient data referenced by the First Minister and Assembly Members as justification for the two [week] COVID-19 shutdown starting the 23rd October. Specifically, you requested -

- (1) Copies of the scientific evidence circulated to Assembly members who took the decision*
- (2) The names of the scientific advisors consulted and their professional status (i.e Professor of Virology and the respective Universities)*
- (3) All the hospital admissions data submitted to the Assembly members making the decision, specifically admissions for Covid19, flu, colds, pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses for the period covering September 1st and October 16th.*
- (4) All confirmed Covid-19 death data submitted to the Assembly members making the decision for the period covering September 1st and October 16th.*
- (5) All the business leaders consulted regarding the impact on private sector businesses*
- (6) Copies of the documentation detailing the impact on mental health, hospital waiting times, dental treatment and the impact on life threatening diseases like cancer and dementia*
- (7) Copies of the documentation regarding the number of Covid 19 patients occupying hospital bed, together with the number of patients occupying beds with flu, pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses between September 1st and October 16th.*
- (8) Copies of the validation methodology on how the Assembly is to judge the effectiveness of this shutdown.*

Our Response

In response to question 1, the scientific evidence circulated to cabinet is available at <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks>.

In relation to question 2, membership of the Technical Advisory Group is available at <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell/membership>. Membership of SAGE, which also provides scientific and technical evidence and of which Welsh Government is an active participant, is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response-membership/list-of-participants-of-sage-and-related-sub-groups>.

With regards to question 3 and 7, Welsh Government does not hold this information. The Public Health Wales Rapid Covid-19 surveillance dashboard at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary> contains data related to hospital admission and occupancy for covid-confirmed patients, however this does not include other respiratory illnesses specifically. We suggest contacting Public Health Wales for this information. Their contact details are as follows –

Freedom of Information Office
Public Health Wales
Floor 3
2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ
Email: foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk

On question 4, The Public Health Wales Rapid Covid-19 surveillance dashboard provided above contains Covid-19-confirmed death data for the period specified.

In response to question 5, a list of the retailers who participated in discussions regarding the fire break and what this might mean for retail is below. Names of individuals have been omitted:

Aldi, Asda, Association of Convenience Stores, Bira, Booksellers Association, Boots, CBI Wales, Currys PC World, Co-op, Debenhams, Federation of Small Businesses, Iceland, John Lewis, Kingfisher, Lidl, MacDonalds, Marks and Spencers, Morrisons, Ocado Retail, Primark, Sainsburys, Spar, Tesco, Union of Shops, Distributive and Allied Workers and the Welsh Retail Consortium.

In response to question 6, Welsh Government publishes its impact assessments here: <https://gov.wales/impact-assessments-coronavirus>.

In response to question 8, please refer to the Technical Advisory Cell: Summary of advice 23 October 2020 which provides information on the firebreak scenario modelling on page 3 – <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/advice-summary-23-october-2020.pdf>

Next Steps

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

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,



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