



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14619

23 December 2020

Dear,

### **ATISN 14619 – Draconian Ban of Alcohol Sales in Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 02 December. You requested the following information regarding a second lockdown, specifically:

- 1. Provide the evidence behind the decision for Mark Drakeford to announce the draconian ban on alcohol sales at hospitality settings from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.*

Welsh Government decisions are informed by the latest available scientific evidence, which is published by the [Technical Advisory Cell](#) and [SAGE](#) on their respective webpages.

A summary of the available scientific evidence relating to the restrictions on hospitality and entertainment is available at the following links:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/technical-advisory-group-statement-regarding-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-in-the-pre-christmas-period.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell-summary-advice-27-november-2020>

Coronavirus thrives when we come together and there is always risk that as people come together to celebrate Christmas, they will catch or spread the virus. It is therefore important that in the run-up to 23 December, we do everything we can to make sure rates are low. We also know that as the consumption of alcohol increases, social distancing and the perception of risk decreases. Wherever people mix, there's a risk of coronavirus being passed on.

As a result, the restrictions have been strengthened to focus on places where we meet and where coronavirus thrives. We have also drawn on the recent evidence from the UK Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies, which examined which interventions have had the biggest impact on the virus in this paper:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/939057/S0905\\_191120\\_O\\_Four\\_Nations\\_Autumn\\_Interventions\\_V1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939057/S0905_191120_O_Four_Nations_Autumn_Interventions_V1_.pdf).

It concludes the measures in Scotland's level three and England's tier three are effective, many of which are already in place in Wales, and we have adapted the other measures to a Welsh context:

- In hospitality – there will be no on-site sale of alcohol and premises will have to close at 6pm (this is in line with Scotland's level three measures; in tier three areas in England all hospitality premises are closed except for takeaway)
- Indoor entertainment and visitor attractions must close.

These regulations were reviewed on 17 December and will be subsequently reviewed every three weeks.

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,