



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14621

18 December 2020

Dear

ATISN 14621 – Covid-19

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 2 December. You asked for:

Evidence to support the decision to stop the sale of alcohol in pubs.

Welsh Government decisions in response to Covid-19 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 was always risk that as people came together to celebrate Christmas, they would catch or spread the virus. It was therefore important that in the run-up to 23 December, we did everything we could to make sure rates were 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 were strengthened to focus on places where we meet and where coronavirus thrives. We also drew 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.

It concluded the measures in Scotland's level three and England's tier three were effective, many of which were already in place in Wales, and we 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.

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,