



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14943

24 March 2021

Dear

**ATISN 14943 – Sars Cov2**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 25 February 2021. I have interpreted your request as follows:

*1) Please provide all documents the Welsh Government including (but not limited to) the Department for Health and Social Services proving the existence of the alleged virus SARS CoV2 and the alleged disease Covid19.*

*(For SARS Cov2 that is an "isolated" virus meaning in line with the industry gold standard of Koch's Postulates.)*

**Our response:**

The WHO published a paper setting out the current understanding of the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on 26 March 2020. This paper is in the public domain and can be found at:

[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332197/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Virus\\_origin-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332197/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Virus_origin-2020.1-eng.pdf).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus was classified and named by the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses. A consensus statement from the Coronaviridae Study Group of the ICTV describing this process is in the public domain and can be found at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-0695-z>

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention have successfully managed to isolate the COVID-19 Virus. I have attached a paper below on this matter -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/grows-virus-cell-culture.html>

The first human cases of this disease were reported from Wuhan City, China, in December 2019. The evolution in the understanding of this disease and its causal agent is catalogued in

a vast body of international research evidence comprising many thousands of papers, much of which is published in the public domain. The multidisciplinary nature of this global investigative effort is such that it is not encompassed by one, or even a few, 'primary' papers. This collective international understanding continues to evolve across many scientific disciplines over time and consequently so does the associated published evidence base.

The name of the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 was designated as "COVID-19" by the World Health Organization on 11 February 2020. This was announced in the WHO Situation Report published on this date and which is also in the public domain at:

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200211-sitrep-22-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=fb6d49b1\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200211-sitrep-22-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=fb6d49b1_2)

Further information regarding the large-scale, rapid whole-genome sequencing of SARs-CoV-2 that has fed into the Welsh Government's public health response is available at

<https://www.cogconsortium.uk/>.

### **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](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,