



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 14992

Date: 13 April 2021

Dear

ATISN 14992

Thank you for your request which I received on 12 March 2021. You asked for the following information in relation to Covid restrictions (February 22 – March 12th 2021):

- all data that the WG has used as a basis for its decisions re Covid19 (I am particularly interested in why close contact hairdressing services have been allowed to open ahead of other similar (and less risky) services);
- access to the economic data that supports the relaxation of rules regarding supermarkets selling non-essential items as compared to small retailers selling the same (and why it has been decided that they should be given a 3 week sales advantage); and
- data regarding driving tests and why these are not allowed to go ahead despite Wales satisfying the criteria for moving out of tier 4 restrictions as defined by WG itself.

The Welsh Government has set out the decision-making approach in a number of policy documents, which have evolved over time to reflect the changing nature of the pandemic. In date order these are:

- *Leading Wales out of the coronavirus pandemic: a framework for recovery:* <https://gov.wales/leading-wales-out-coronavirus-pandemic>. This sets out the broad principles and the process (from April 2020).
- *Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation:* <https://gov.wales/unlocking-our-society-and-economy-continuing-conversation>. This provided more detail on the specific areas under consideration (May 2020).
- *Coronavirus Control Plan:* <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-wales>. This set out the suite of interventions from local through to national and how escalation of interventions could take place (August 2020).
- *Coronavirus Control Plan: alert levels for Wales:* <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-wales>. This provided detail of the national interventions set out in the Coronavirus Control Plan to respond to the wild-type variant (December 2020).

- *Coronavirus Control Plan: coming out of lockdown*: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-wales-coming-out-lockdown>. This describes why the approach set out under the alert levels has had to change as a result of new variants and sets out an approach to coming out of lockdown (February 2021).
- *Coronavirus Control Plan: Revised Alert Levels in Wales (March 2021)*: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/coronavirus-control-plan-revised-alert-levels-in-wales-march-2021.pdf>. This describes the revised levels and indicators that would be considered in light of the vaccine rollout and new variants.

These documents explain the process and the step-by-step approach being adopted by the Welsh Government.

Links to the primary sources of, and summaries of, data used to support the decision to amend the 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020' are set out below. These also include links to further sources of information, such as the Technical Advisory Cell reports, which synthesise data from a range of sources including the UK Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

Welsh Government Statistics and research on Coronavirus

Coronavirus (Covid-19) related statistics and research
<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-related-statistics-and-research>.

Survey of public views on the coronavirus (COVID-19): 26 February to 1 March 2021
<https://gov.wales/survey-public-views-coronavirus-covid-19-26-february-1-march-2021>

Test, Trace, Protect (contact tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19)): up to 6 March 2021
<https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-contact-tracing-coronavirus-covid-19-6-march-2021>

Office of the National Statistics

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 12 March 2021

Coronavirus restrictions review March 11 2021: Summary impact assessment
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurvey/pilot/12march2021>

Public Health Wales data

[PHW Headline summary](https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary)
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

Technical Advisory Cell reports

A summary of what TAC do including publications of all reports
<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell>

Technical Advisory Cell: Summary of advice 12 March 2021
<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell-summary-advice-12-march-2021>

[Technical Advisory Group High level summary of evidence on costs and benefits and potential mitigations for measures to address Covid-19 in Wales](#)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/technical-advisory-group-summary-of-evidence-on-costs-and-benefits-and-potential-mitigations-for-measures-to-address-covid-19-in-wales.pdf>

Supporting documents for the decisions

Chief Medical Officer advice on 21 day review: March 2021

<https://gov.wales/cmo-advice-21-day-review-march-2021>

Coronavirus restrictions review March 11 2021: summary impact assessment

This document aims to capture an assessment of the impact of the easements made in the 11th March review on different demographics in Welsh Society. This includes close contact services such as hairdressers and barbers.

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-restrictions-review-march-11-2021-summary-impact-assessment>

Coronavirus control plan: revised alert levels in Wales (March 2021)

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-revised-alert-levels-wales-march-2021>

Driving Tests

Welsh Government does not hold data relating to driving tests. The Welsh Government announced driving lessons would resume on 12 April and tests on 22 April. This is aligned with the approach set out for England. The link below provides information on the restarting of DVSA services in Wales on the UK Government website which you might find helpful.

[Coronavirus: driving tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-driving-tests)

As set out above, the policy documents explain the criteria for moving out of alert level four. At no point has there been a mechanistic link between specific indicators or thresholds and the lifting of specific restrictions.

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