



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

05 July 2021

Dear ,

ATISN – 15283 - C J - 153: Covid 19 Ferret Register Wales

Thank you for your request which we received on 29th June. You asked for copies of the scientific documents, evidencing the susceptibility of Ferrets to SARS-CoV-2, their ability to transmit the virus within their species and potential to produce variants of the virus.

The information you have requested is freely available online. The steps taken to protect public health from the infection with dangerous variants have been based on scientific research into the susceptibility of mammals to the virus. This evidence has also informed the guidance issued by the Welsh Government and other GB administrations relating to SARS-CoV-2 and the potential risks presented by ferrets and other *Mustelinae*.

The results of this research have been published online, in the following articles:

Wiley Online Library

[Animals and SARS-CoV-2: Species susceptibility and viral transmission in experimental and natural conditions, and the potential implications for community transmission - Hobbs - - Transboundary and Emerging Diseases - Wiley Online Library](#)

Frontiers in Veterinary Science

[Frontiers | An Overview of SARS-CoV-2 and Animal Infection | Veterinary Science \(frontiersin.org\)](#)

Journal of Biological Chemistry

[The SARS-CoV-2 Y453F mink variant displays a pronounced increase in ACE-2 affinity but does not challenge antibody neutralization - Journal of Biological Chemistry \(jbc.org\)](#)



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bioRxiv

[Natural SARS-CoV-2 infection in kept ferrets, Spain | bioRxiv](#)

We have attached pdf copies of these documents to the accompanying e-mail for ease of access.

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

**Animal Disease Policy Branch
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Welsh Government**

E-mail: animaldiseases@gov.wales

