



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 15731
Date: 30 December 2021

Dear ,

ATISN 15731

Thank you for your revised request for information received on 6 December 2021. You confirmed you were seeking an analysis of costs and efficacy, the benefits and how you (Welsh Government) are going to recoup the cost and the damage to the businesses from the passports and Covid a whole.

I can confirm that information on costs by sector will be published shortly in the Consolidated Annual Accounts on the Welsh Government internet page. As such, the information we currently hold is subject to Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act – information intended for future publication. I have set out my reasons for non-disclosure at Annex 1 of this letter.

An overview of COVID-19 data and associated direct and indirect impacts on areas such as society and the economy is already published and can be found here [COVID-19 in Wales: interactive dashboard | GOV.WALES](#)

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,



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MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

CentralDepartments-FOI/DP@gov.wales
Gwefan • website: www.llyw.cymru
www.gov.wales

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

Annex 1

Section 22 – Information intended for future publication

Engagement of section 22(1) (Information intended for future publication)

Whilst I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information of this description, it is considered exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. This states (inter alia):

- 1) *Information is exempt information if—*
 - (a) *the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
 - (b) *the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
 - (c) *it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a)*

I can confirm that the conditions under (a) and (b) are satisfied. Welsh Government does some information in scope of your request. Publication of the information will be made in due course on the Welsh Government's internet site (Consolidated Annual Accounts page).

For (c), the Welsh Government believes that it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until that time. Publishing the requested information now may not reflect the information that will be published on the website; it could be misleading and not present an accurate picture. For that reason, we believe it is reasonable for the publication schedule to remain so as to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information.

Public Interest Test

Section 22 is also a public interest tested exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under it, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it. Whilst Welsh Government acknowledges the general public interest in openness and transparency that release would engender, we believe the release of information at this stage would be confusing and may not present complete overall information compared to that which will be published.

The Welsh Government believes that this provisional data should be exempt from disclosure on the basis that more accurate and complete information will be published following all data quality and accuracy checks. The information has not yet been subject to these full checks and may present an inaccurate picture if released now.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

- The general presumption of openness that the FOIA aspires to.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

- The intended publication date is in the not too distant future;
- Information released through the Freedom of Information Act is released to the world and not just the requester. The information in question is still undergoing quality assurance. The final, published version of the information could therefore be different, making it possible that confusion could arise when comparing the two versions and potentially leading to incorrect conclusions being drawn;
- Disclosure of this information before the publication date may compromise trust in the accuracy of official information.

Balance of public interest test

On the basis of the above, we conclude that on balance the public interest arguments are in favour of withholding the information at this time. The public interest in this information will be met with the publication of the Consolidated Annual Accounts.