

20 October 2022

Dear

ATISN 16739 – COVID-19 Inquiry

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 07 October relating to the covid-19 inquiry. You requested the following:

- *Why did NHS Wales not apply to be a core participant in Module 1 of the UK Covid Inquiry?*

I note that NHS England, NHS Scotland and the NI equivalent are core participants. I also note that Public Health orgs from all 4 nations have applied and are core participants.

Response

“NHS Wales” is not a legal entity. “NHS Wales” is commonly used to collectively refer to local health boards, trusts and special health authorities and those who they contract with to provide a range of services. The body which has overarching responsibility for policy direction and oversight of planning and delivery for the NHS in Wales is the Welsh Government, namely the Department of Health and Social Services. Welsh Government did apply for, and was designated, core participant status for Module 1.

As you refer in your correspondence, Public Health Wales also applied for, and was designated, core participant status for Module 1.

Welsh Government and individual NHS organisations in Wales will continue to consider the appropriateness of applying for core participant status as and when the detailed scope of each module is announced, and modules opened for applications.

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response.

We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information

relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@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,
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,