

From: Rees, Sioned (HSS - Mental Health, NHS Governance & Corporate Services) **Sent:** 08 September 2021 15:08
To: (REDACTED – S 40(2)) (HSS) Connolly, Mike (HSS - Mental Health, NHS Governance & Corporate Services)

Subject: RE: ATISN 15377

Hi (REDACTED – S 40(2))

Thanks for the below – can we go for option 2 as he has not formally asked for an internal review and as noted by (REDACTED – S 40(2)) if he remains dissatisfied we can set out the internal review process.

Sioned

From: (REDACTED – S 40(2)) (KAS)
Sent: 31 August 2021 15:19
To: Roberts, Nia (EPS - SED); Jones, Robin (PSG - Recovery & Restart); Warren, Jeanette (HSS - Government & Corporate Business Team); (REDACTED – S40(2)) (HSS - Government & Corporate Business Team)
Subject: FW: ATISN 15377

All,

To see below. It's only a short email but it contains a potential complaint, a new FOI request and a data subject access request. We can log the latter without much difficulty, but the complaint is trickier. . If he was saying 'I want an internal review' then we'd log and allocate, but he's not asking that; he is just stating dissatisfaction. The s45 Code of Practice states:

It is best practice for each public authority to have a procedure in place for dealing with disputes about its handling of requests for information. These disputes will usually be dealt with as a request for an "internal review" of the original decision. Public authorities should distinguish between a request for an internal review, which seeks to challenge either the outcome or the process of the handling of the initial response, and a general complaint, which should be handled as general correspondence.

It seems to me the broad options are:

1. Handle as an internal review, or
2. Handle as correspondence to confirm we don't hold information of that description and re-state his options regarding internal review.

Grateful for a steer on how you want to handle (and if it's internal review, who we should allocate it to).

Happy to discuss.

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

From: (REDACTED – S 40(2))

Sent: 27 August 2021 15:41
To: Freedom of Information Officer
Subject: ATISN 15377

Dear Sir or Madam,

ONGOING FOI request ATISN 15377

The response received is not specific and offers no verifiable evidence of the claims.

I am dissatisfied with the response.

There must be emails and minutes of meeting which confirm that the Welsh Government is seriously considering permitting private suppliers of tests.

As said previously, i would like to see said minutes/emails.

I would also like to see all notes made, emails sent etc in regards to my request so far, anything connected to me.

Yours faithfully

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

From: (REDACTED – S 40(2)) (HSS - Government & Corporate Business Team) **On Behalf Of** HSS - GBT - Briefings, DCs & Meetings/Briffio, AD a Chyfarfodydd
Sent: 27 August 2021 10:04
To: (REDACTED – S 40(2))
Subject: ATISN 15377 - Response Letter

Dear **(REDACTED – S 40(2))**,

Please find attached a response letter to your Freedom of Information Request of 01 August.

Kind regards,
(REDACTED – s 40(2))

From: (REDACTED – S 40(2))
Sent: 01 August 2021 06:48
To: COVID-19-Legislation - Deddfwriaeth
Subject: Re: Enquiry Number: HR-817974-W0J2 Enquiry: Ultra Vires conduct by Welsh Government
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Good Morning **(REDACTED – s 40(2))**

I wish to register a Freedom of Information request for proof of "We are working with the UK Government to seek assurance that only those companies who reach specified key performance indicators will be allowed to provide tests. When we are assured the right

systems are in place to protect the Welsh public, we will review the position so that people could access tests from private companies”.

I understand that company names may be confidential but i am happy for a redacted set of information.

It is not appropriate in any way for the Welsh administration to obstruct travellers who are performing a perfectly lawful activity.

Yours faithfully

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

On 23 Jul 2021, at 11:20, COVID-19-Legislation - Deddfwriaeth wrote:

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

Thank you for your email to the Welsh Government, I have been asked to respond.

Where international travel is essential, Welsh residents must consult the requirements for visitors for any country they plan to travel to. Tests may be required for entry. For anyone planning on travelling to Wales, we continue to require people to take tests before travel and following arrival in Wales. All travellers must take a pre-departure test up to 72 hours before travel and present proof of a negative test to carriers. In addition, travellers must book and pay for mandatory PCR tests to be taken following their arrival to Wales.

Following the changes recently announced relating to amber list countries, fully vaccinated adults and under-18s will need to take a PCR test on or before day two following their arrival in the UK and will no longer be required to self-isolate. Those who are not fully vaccinated will need to continue to take PCR tests on day 2 and on day 8 and to self-isolate for 10 days. Travellers arriving from green countries must take a PCR test on or before day 2.

Fully vaccinated means that you have had your final dose of an approved vaccine under the UK vaccination programme, are taking part in formally approved COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, or under the age of 18 and resident in the UK. This also applies if you are a resident of the British Overseas Territories who has been vaccinated under a vaccination programme supported directly by the UK Government. You should have had your final dose at least 14 whole days before the date you arrive in Wales. The day you have your final dose of the vaccine does not count as one of the 14 days.

It is critical any positive cases and potentially harmful variants of COVID-19 are identified at the earliest opportunity.

For this reason, for the time being, we require the tests people must take following their arrival to Wales to be provided by the NHS. NHS tests are booked through the CTM web portal. CTM are the booking agent for NHS tests, they are not the test provider. The price for NHS tests is the same across the UK, and is set by the UK Government. NHS tests are processed through the UK Lighthouse Laboratory network, which means we can identify positive cases quickly with results flowing directly to our Test, Trace, Protect system for follow up. Positive results undergo genomic sequencing in our world class sequencing facilities.

There is a list of private test providers on the UK Government's website who offer PCR testing, sometimes at cheaper prices. The UK Government does not endorse or recommend any of these providers. The Welsh Government is concerned about the level of service provided by some of these private providers across a range of issues, including booked tests not being delivered and people not being notified of results. We are determined to protect the Welsh public from companies who do not meet the standards we require.

Protecting public health remains our main priority. We are working with the UK Government to seek assurance that only those companies who reach specified key performance indicators will be allowed to provide tests. When we are assured the right systems are in place to protect the Welsh public, we will review the position so that people could access tests from private companies

If you are not satisfied with my response, you can make a formal complaint in writing, by e-mail or by using a complaint form. Receiving a complaint in writing is particularly important if the complaint is complicated and detailed. However, we may accept a verbal complaint if we consider it reasonable to do so.

You can e-mail the Welsh Government Complaints team at complaints@gov.wales

You can write to them at Complaints Advice Team, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Or use the online form <https://gov.wales/complain-about-welsh-government>

You can contact the Complaints Advice team on 0300 025 1378 if you want to make your complaint over the phone. If no one is able to take your call, please leave a message and someone will call you back.

Thank you

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

From: Customer Help

Sent: 23 July 2021 09:37

To: COVID-19-Legislation - Deddfwriaeth

Subject: You have been forwarded an enquiry from the First Point of Contact Centre. Ref:04697044

Please see the following email received in the Welsh Government's mailbox.

Could you please deal with the query or pass to a relevant colleague for action within the standard 15 working day timescale.

PLEASE ADVISE OF RESPONSE TO THIS CORRESPONDENCE SO THAT RECORDS CAN BE UPDATED

My apologies if this is not your line of work - could you please forward to a relevant colleague, or advise if this is the case.

Regards/Cofion

(REDACTED – PERSONAL INFORMATION)

Desg Gymorth Cydwasanaethau / Shared Service Helpdesk

Canolfan Cydwasanaethau Corfforaethol / Corporate Shared Service Centre

Cyllid a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol / Finance and Corporate Services

Enquiry: Ultra Vires conduct by Welsh Government

Hello,

Please direct this communication to whoever deals with legal challenges to the Actions of the Welsh Government.

I intend to raise money via crowd funding to challenge the prima facie abuse of power regarding the failure to recognise other providers of Covid Tests, than just the NHS in Wales.

This is deliberate and blatant abuse of power.

In England the Government recognises many different (cheaper) suppliers of tests for people returning from foreign travel.

The creation of a monopoly of supply in Wales is clearly designed to discourage people from perfectly lawful conduct.

The First Minister has openly admitted that this decision is designed with the purpose of dissuading people from travelling, travel which is perfectly legal to do.

The effort needed to recognise other suppliers of tests is minimal and is in no way a justification for this abuse of power.

It would be far more sensible if this draconian and dictatorial stance were dropped before the Welsh Government incurs legal costs.

(REDACTED – S 40(2))

From: (REDACTED – s 40(2)) (HSS - Government and Corporate Business Team) **On Behalf Of** HSS - GBT - Briefings, DCs & Meetings/Briffio, AD a Chyfarfodydd

Sent: 06 August 2021 17:41

To: (REDACTED – S 40(2))

Subject: ATISN 15377 - Acknowledgment Letter

Dear (REDACTED – S 40(2))

,

Please find attached an acknowledgment letter towards your Freedom of Information Request of 01 August.

Kind regards,
(REDACTED – s 40(2))