



ATISN 26644

21 May 2026

Dear ,

### **ATISN 26644 Internal Review Response - Shingles Vaccination**

An internal review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') dated 23 January 2026 (reference ATISN 26644) has been undertaken, in view of your indication in email correspondence on 23 April (addressed to the Litigation Team) that you will "now proceed with a formal internal review of ATISN 26644".

We have exercised discretion to undertake the review outside of the period of 40 working days from receipt of the response to the original request, which was sent to you on 20 February 2026.

Please note that an internal review is concerned only with the outcome and/or handling of the request for information.

The review has now been completed, and this letter sets out the outcome of the review.

In your request for information regarding the shingles vaccination programme dated 23 January 2026, you requested disclosure of:

- 1. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the shingles vaccination programme, including any consideration of carers.*
- 2. The Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) or equivalent analysis.*
- 3. Any risk assessments relating to severely immunosuppressed individuals and indirect exposure via carers.*
- 4. Any correspondence or advice from JCVI relating to carers, indirect risk, or subgroup modelling.*
- 5. The Ministerial decision-making record demonstrating how statutory duties were considered.*

In relation to your request for recorded information, the Welsh Government response stated that for points 1, 2 and 5, your request was interpreted to be in relation to the eligibility for shingles vaccination as advised by the JCVI in 2010, prior to the vaccination programme being introduced in 2013.

The response stated that the Welsh Government did not hold the information you requested, confirmed that records are retained only in accordance with the Welsh

Government's Records [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#), and that any relevant older records that may previously have been held would therefore have been lawfully destroyed in line with that schedule, prior to the receipt of your request.

For point 3, a link to the Welsh Government's published integrated impact assessment for the 2025 shingles vaccination programme expansion to additional immunosuppressed people was provided.

For point 4 it was confirmed the Welsh Government does not hold any correspondence from the JCVI relating to carers, indirect risk, or subgroup modelling. A link was provided to the JCVI published official advice, statements, and summary evidence reviews.

### **Internal review response**

Your request for information was not interpreted as being limited to JCVI advice, but rather as relating to the eligibility for the shingles vaccination prior to the national programme introduced in 2013, and this was explained in the response on 20 February.

The internal review has reassessed whether reasonable and proportionate searches were undertaken to identify recorded information within the scope of your request. The review has established that policy officials within the vaccinations policy team undertook searches to establish whether any recorded information was held which matched the description of your request, set out in points 1 to 5 of your email. These searches were adequately and sufficiently undertaken and included electronic records such as emails, drafts, briefings, submissions, internal notes, meeting papers and correspondence with other bodies.

These searches confirmed the position stated in the response to your request issued on 20 February - that is, the Welsh Government does not hold any recorded information within the scope of points 1 to 5 of your original request, beyond the links to the published information we provided.

The Act requires reasonable searches to be undertaken and provides a right of access to recorded information **held at the time of the request**. It does not require a public authority to speculate, infer, or generate material to explain why information is not held.

In summary, I am satisfied that the information provided in the response to your original request on 20 February is accurate, and the outcome of the internal review is to uphold that response. This response concludes the Welsh Government's internal review.

Should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office ('ICO'). The ICO contact details were provided in the response on 20 February.

Should you consider that there has been maladministration in the handling of and/or response to your request for information, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:  
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales  
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae

Pencoed  
Bridgend  
CF35 5LJ  
Email: [ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk](mailto:ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Sioned Rees**  
**Director of Public Health Protection**