



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14337

20 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14337 – Face Coverings

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 17 September. You asked for:

- 1. Risk assessment and scientific evidence to support the mandatory use of wearing face coverings.*
- 2. Scientific evidence that supports specific social distancing regulations.*

Response

In relation to point 1 the following advice from the Technical Advisory Group sets out the most recent evidence about the effectiveness of face coverings and the risks and benefits:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/technical-advisory-group-updated-advice-on-face-coverings_1.pdf

In relation to point 2, the 2.0m distance is based on SAGE advice. Welsh Government are members of SAGE but are not the owners of the papers that are submitted. The SAGE secretariat will work with the commissioners and authors of the papers to publish in due course, but until the papers are released we do not have permission to share them. The information that you have requested will be published on the GOV.UK SAGE webpages in due course, therefore this request falls within scope of an exemption category under section 22, "Information intended for future publication".

I have attached a link to the GOV.UK SAGE website should you wish to find out more about SAGE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergenciessage-coronavirus-covid-19-response>

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: Freedomofinformation@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,