



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14346

22 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14346 – Face Coverings

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 23 September. You asked for:

With regards to the change in stance of the Welsh Government that led to decision to introduce legislation requiring customers to use face coverings in shops, in addition to other indoor public places, effective 14 September 2020:

- 1. Please provide the specific evidence, study, advice, or otherwise, on the effectiveness of masks or face coverings in such situations, that specifically led to this change, or alternatively provide a link to where it can be read*
- 2. Please confirm the Welsh Government had access to evidence or studies into possible downsides to mask or face covering usage by the public in these situations, outside of laboratory conditions, in particular with regards to human behaviour;*
- 3. Please provide the specific evidence used in (2) above in reaching the decision to make face coverings mandatory or alternatively provide a link to where it can be read.*

Response

In relation to points 1/2/3 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

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,