



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14436

21 October 2020

Dear

ATISN 14436 – Lockdown Risk Assessment - Mental health and suicides

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 16 October. You requested information relating to the lockdown restrictions, specifically:

All information, ministerial discussions/communications/communications between Welsh Government and Civil Servants and other bodies pertaining to the risk posed by lockdown and restrictions on basic social interactions (such as spending time together indoors) to mental health and associated self-harm / suicides.

Please include any estimates of the number of suicides in Wales the restrictions have and are likely to have contributed to.

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

The initial search our electronic filing system for the information using key words was undertaken and a sample exercise showed over 500 documents. Each document would need to be read to identify if it was captured by your request. We would also need to undertake searches of over 30 individual mailboxes. At present, officials are experiencing a very high level number of correspondence each day, of which each email would need to be reviewed to identify if it is caught by your request. Therefore, to review all documents and correspondences, we have estimated that this would take far longer than 24 hours as set out in the regulations.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you are looking for. If you do refine your request, this will be treated as a new request.

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,