



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14467

5 November 2020

Dear

### **ATISN 14467 – Risk assessments for masks**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 21 October. You asked for:

- 1. What scientific evidence the Welsh Government considered on the efficacy of masks before making them mandatory, bearing in mind that on 14th July, Frank Atherton, the Chief Medical Officer, said in the media “very little had changed” in the science, which pointed to them having little benefit, and the evidence for making face coverings mandatory was “quite weak”.*
- 2. What risk assessments the Welsh Government performed to satisfy themselves it was safe to compel healthy members of the public to wear face coverings*

### **Response**

In relation to points 1 and 2 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](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](mailto: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,