



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14456

10 December 2020

Dear

ATISN 14456 – Fire-break Lockdown

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 20 October. You asked for –

- 1. I would be pleased to receive a copy of the "**Impact Assessment**" undertaken by Welsh Government to inform the ministerial firebreak lockdown decision.*
- 2. Confirmation of the agreed definition of "**Coronavirus Case**" referred to in your FAQ. Does a "case" refer to the number of people that have been hospitalised, or the number self-isolating at home following a positive R T - P C R test result, or a combination of both. Has the definition been agreed with the "Office for National Statistics" who analyse the raw data and present the information to the public.*
- 3. Is the firebreak lockdown decision based on the number of people that have tested positive for the Covid-19 strain of coronavirus using an "Amplification Cycle Threshold [Ct]" value of 45 in the R T - P C R test.*

In response to your first question Welsh Government publishes its impact assessments here: <https://gov.wales/impact-assessments-coronavirus>. The impact assessment relating to the firebreak is here <https://gov.wales/summary-restrictions-social-gathering-and-travel-business-closures-and-attendance-school>. We will shortly be publishing the Children's Rights Impact Assessment at the request of the Children's Commissioner and therefore this has been withheld under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act: Information Intended For Future Publication.

In response to your second question I can confirm that 'coronavirus case' refers to individuals who have received at least one laboratory-confirmed positive Covid-19 test result. If an individual is tested more than once within a 6-week period they are only counted one and if any of their test results are positive, that is the result recorded. This is the definition of a case used by Public Health Wales for rapid surveillance purposes. ONS collects and analyses infection data for Wales through the COVID-19 infection survey, rather than using data published by Public Health Wales.

In response to your third question, the firebreak lockdown was not a response to a single factor, but the breaching of several of the circuit breaker thresholds recommended by the Technical Advisory Cell relating to case numbers per 100k population, test positivity and NHS capacity, indicating the need for immediate action to bring Covid-19 under control

avoid significant harm. For more information around the firebreak please see the Technical Advisory Cell paper available at https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks_2.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: 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,