



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14566

22 December 2020

Dear,

ATISN 14566 – Reactivating Shielding

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 19 November. I apologise for the delay responding to your request. We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of requests for information during the pandemic. You requested the following information:

- 1. Copies of assessments carried out, to determine the recommendation not to reactivate shielding for the most vulnerable individuals in relation to: a) local lockdowns, and b) firebreak measures.*
- 2. Details of scientific modelling carried out in terms of predictions to mortality for those individuals, comparing not re-activating to reactivating during: a) the local lockdowns, and b) the firebreak measures.*

You also asked the following questions:

- 3. Why there was a disparity between the science and medical advice for England and Scotland and Wales in relation to the recommendation for shielded individuals in relation to: a) local lockdowns, and b) firebreak measures?*

Our Response

The Welsh Government does not hold the information you requested.

There are a number of online sources of information which you may find useful. The technical advisory cell regularly publishes scientific information in relation to the pandemic <https://gov.wales/advice-coronavirus-technical-advisory-cell>.

Evidence considered by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is published on this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/scientific-evidence-supporting-the-government-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19#meeting-minutes-and-supporting-papers>.

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales also publishes statements regularly which are available at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

We published the following in our frequently asked questions document, which explains the rationale for not reintroducing shielding during both the firebreak and local lockdown periods:

It is not necessary for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to adopt strict shielding measures during this period. The regulations in place themselves act to reduce the circulation of the virus and by sticking strictly to the rules, people who are vulnerable will reduce their risk of exposure. Further reductions in risk can be achieved by:

- *keeping contacts outside the household to a minimum and avoiding all situations either inside or outside where a physical distance of 2m from those outside your household cannot be maintained*
- *shopping at quieter times of day and going once per week rather than every day, if you cannot do this online*
- *washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water and using hand sanitiser where hand washing facilities are not available*
- *wearing a face covering when required*
- *avoiding touching surfaces that have been touched by others*

Next Steps

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,