



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14595

14 January 2021

Dear

**ATISN 14595 – Covid Virus**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 27 November 2020. You requested information relating to the Covid19 virus, specifically:

- 1. An explanation of where the COVID-19 virus was manufactured or originated*
- 2. Proof that it was manufactured or originated at that location*
- 3. Evidence that the virus actually exists*
- 4. An explanation why unlike other viruses we are told will just go away*
- 5. Evidence that the 'COVID-19' related deaths are in fact deaths from the virus solely and not just deaths recorded with the smallest hint of being around COVID-19, a cough, temperature, etc. and so recorded as such.*
- 6. An explanation as to why testing does not work but is still being rolled out as working when it is giving off so many false positives*
- 7. Complete exposure by your department that this is not some form of social control or propaganda for nefarious means used against the British public.*
- 8. Assurance that this is not some form of operation globally to bring us all under some form of New World Order or financial reset.*

## **Our response:**

### **Point 1**

The WHO published a paper setting out the current understanding of the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on 26 March 2020. This paper is in the public domain and can be found at:

[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332197/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Virus\\_origin-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332197/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Virus_origin-2020.1-eng.pdf).

### **Point 2**

The SARS-CoV-2 virus was classified and named by the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses. A consensus statement from the Coronaviridae Study Group of the ICTV describing this process is in the public domain and can be found at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-0695-z>

### **Point 3**

The first human cases of this disease were reported from Wuhan City, China, in December 2019. The evolution in the understanding of this disease and its causal agent is catalogued in a vast body of international research evidence comprising many thousands of papers, much of which is published in the public domain. The multidisciplinary nature of this global investigative effort is such that it is not encompassed by one, or even a few, 'primary' papers. This collective international understanding continues to evolve across many scientific disciplines over time and consequently so does the associated published evidence base.

The name of the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 was designated as "COVID-19" by the World Health Organization on 11 February 2020. This was announced in the WHO Situation Report published on this date and which is also in the public domain at:

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200211-sitrep-22-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=fb6d49b1\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200211-sitrep-22-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=fb6d49b1_2).

### **Point 4**

We do not hold this information, as there is no primary paper on Covid-19. Rather, there are many scientific papers that together form the wider evidence base and scientific consensus to help our understanding of the disease. These include papers brought to the [Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies \(SAGE\)](#), publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals such as the [British Medical Journal](#), the [Lancet](#), [Nature](#) and research groups such as the [Covid-19 Genomics UK Consortium](#).

### **Point 5**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collect mortality data for England and Wales based on information collected on the death certificate. The ONS publish the number of reported deaths by method of certification and registration (including the number of post mortems) for England and Wales in their [user guide](#), but this is currently unavailable for the pandemic period. For more information on quality of mortality data during the coronavirus pandemic see the following report from the [ONS](#). For more information please contact [health.data@ons.gov.uk](mailto:health.data@ons.gov.uk).

This information is summarised for Wales on the Public Health Wales Rapid Covid-19 surveillance dashboard, which also considers deaths of hospitalised patients and care home residents confirmed with a positive test and the clinician suspects this was a causative factor in the death, under 'PHW deaths'. The dashboard is available at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>.

**Point 6**

The Technical Advisory Cell published its advice, key information and core principles, including the impact of false positive and false negative rates, on the use of the RT-PCR for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus on 15 July 2020, available at <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/core-principles-for-utilisation-of-rt-pcr-tests-for-detection-of-sars-cov-2.pdf>.

You may wish to contact Public Health Wales for further information around testing.

**Point 7 and 8**

These questions are not a valid Freedom of Information request and therefore have not been answered.

**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](mailto: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