



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14611

6 January 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 14611 – Spread of virus in soft plays and restaurants**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 02 December 2020. I have interpreted your request as follows:

- Evidence that the virus is spreading in soft plays and in restaurants, particularly actual figures of the amount spread in these environments

### **Our response**

The Welsh Government does not hold the information you have requested.

As part of the contact tracing process, people state the locations they have been shortly before and after symptom onset or a positive test. This records what are known as “exposure locations” but it does not identify where the virus is being spread or where someone may have contracted the virus.

Public Health Wales (PHW) hold the data regarding contact tracing and use it to provide Welsh Government with some headline figures on exposure locations on occasions. The Welsh Government holds an extract of the contact tracing dataset provided by PHW.

You may wish to contact Public Health Wales for the data you have requested and they can be contacted using the following email address: [foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk).

The Decision-making process has been set out in policy documents available here: <https://gov.wales/strategy-evidence-coronavirus>.

Most recent ones are the Coronavirus Control Plan (August): <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-wales> and the recently published update this month: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-wales>

Ministers draw on wide range of expertise as set out in the above including advice from TAC (summaries available on our website) and SAGE (summaries available on UK Government website). They also draw on statistics from within Welsh Government and PHW information.

This is combined with local intelligence from Incident Management Teams and Outbreak Control Teams (as described in the Coronavirus Control Plan).

A summary of the available scientific evidence relating to the restrictions on hospitality and entertainment is available at the following links:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/technical-advisory-group-statement-regarding-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-in-the-pre-christmas-period.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell-summary-advice-27-november-2020>

Cabinet minutes are published on the Welsh Government website and Welsh Ministers communicate through Written Statements, Oral Statements, Press Conferences, Press Notices and a range of other mechanisms.

Coronavirus thrives when we come together and there is always risk that as people come together to celebrate Christmas, they will catch or spread the virus. It is therefore important that in the run-up to 23 December, we do everything we can to make sure rates are low. We also know that as the consumption of alcohol increases, social distancing and the perception of risk decreases. Wherever people mix, there's a risk of coronavirus being passed on.

As a result, the restrictions have been strengthened to focus on places where we meet and where coronavirus thrives. We have also drawn on the recent evidence from the UK Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies, which examined which interventions have had the biggest impact on the virus in this paper:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/939057/S0905\\_191120\\_O\\_Four\\_Nations\\_Autumn\\_Interventions\\_V1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939057/S0905_191120_O_Four_Nations_Autumn_Interventions_V1_.pdf)

It concludes the measures in Scotland's level three and England's tier three are effective, many of which are already in place in Wales, and we have adapted the other measures to a Welsh context:

- In hospitality – there will be no on-site sale of alcohol and premises will have to close at 6pm (this is in line with Scotland's level three measures; in tier three areas in England all hospitality premises are closed except for takeaway)
- Indoor entertainment and visitor attractions must close.

These regulations were reviewed on 17 December and will be subsequently reviewed every three weeks.

### **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

## **Annex 1**

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure**

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

### **Public interest arguments against disclosure**

The intended publication date is in the not too distant future.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency, and Ministerial attendance at engagements and events is published quarterly. The information from 2017 to the end of 2019 is already published, and the first quarter information for 2020 will be published in April

Therefore, we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published at the appropriate time. To that end, I believe the information in relation to Ministerial meetings should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course at the following link <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministerial-meetings-and-engagements/?lang=en>