



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14999

15 April 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 14999 – COVID in gyms**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 19 February. You asked for –

- 1. A copy of the scientific evidence that supported the First Minister's statement of 18 February regarding the COVID-19 transmission risks associated with opening gyms in Wales.*
- 2. Data/evidence that proves community spread of any variant of Coronavirus within gyms in Wales, also with supporting evidence/ genome sequencing to demonstrate positive test results for variant B.1.1.7 directly linked to community spread in gyms in Wales.*
- 3. What financial package is in place to support this forced prolonged shutdown.*

### **Our Response**

On Q1/2, the Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) provides scientific and technical advice to support Ministers' to make informed decisions about the risk of transmission. In January, the TAC published a paper that identified the potential routes and risks of transmission, as well as any potential measures which can be taken to help reduce risks associated with activities in indoor exercise facilities in general (i.e. not just indoor gyms). That paper is available here: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/technical-advisory-group-sars-cov-2-infection-risks-at-indoor-exercise-facilities.pdf>

The Welsh government is continuously reviewing evidence and risk as the course of the epidemic changes, and the Coronavirus Control plan in Wales does include the relaxation of restrictions on gyms in the near future.

On Q3, a detailed breakdown of financial support available since December 2020 is attached at **Annex 1**.

### **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,