



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 15211

13 July 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 15211 – CMO Correspondence**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 09 June. You asked for –

*All written communications, attachments and subsequent email chains, sent either to, or from, the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton and/or the Chief Scientific Advisor for Health to the Welsh Government, Dr Rob Orford, between the dates March 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 and March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 (inclusive), containing reference to one or more of the following words or phrases:*

- *Coronavirus*
- *Covid*
- *Covid-19*
- *COBR*
- *COBRA*
- *Sage*
- *Scientific Advisory Group*
- *SPI-M*
- *SPI-M-O*
- *NERVTAG*
- *WHO*
- *World Health Organisation*

### **Our Response**

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested we would be required to conduct a number of searches through all communications between the identified parties to identify which contain the information you are seeking.

From my searches, I consider that your request should be refused, as dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The 'appropriate limit' is set out in the Freedom of Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations and, for central government,

that's £600 or 24 hours. This means if we estimate it would take over 24 hours to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it then we can refuse the request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope. We would be happy to revise our calculations in this instance.

## **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,