



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 15911

6 January 2022

Dear

### **ATISN 15911 – COVID virus**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 02 January 2022 regarding Covid19 virus. You requested the following:

1. *Has the virus (SARS-CoV-2) been isolated, reproduced and shown to cause symptoms of the disease COVID-19?*
2. *Is there an electron micrograph of the pure and fully characterised virus (SARS-CoV-2)?*
3. *Can you provide the name/title of the primary peer reviewed paper/article in which the virus (SARSCoV-2) is illustrated and its full genetic information described?*

### **Our Response**

The information you are seeking in point 1 is readily available and previously published, therefore has been exempted under Section 21 on the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have provided a link to the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log where this information can be located for your convenience:

<https://gov.wales/atisn15388>

On points 2 and 3 we do not hold this information. 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](#).

### **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,