



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14445

16 November 2020

Dear

ATISN 14445 – Evidence for business closures during fire break

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 16 October. You requested the following information regarding a second lockdown, specifically:

The evidence that drove the decision making process behind a nationwide closure of hospitality and other businesses.

The Technical Advisory Cell has published the evidence behind its advice regarding the fire break and closure of hospitality and other businesses which have seen an increased number of outbreaks and associated risk is available here: <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks>.

The UK Government has also published a number of evidence papers relating to transmission, events and gatherings available on the SAGE webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies>.

The Welsh Government's approach to all covid restrictions has been and will continue to be cautious and based on the latest data and science relevant to Wales and the latest advice from our own scientific and medical advisors (TAC), SAGE and the WHO. The fire break reflects the critical situation that Wales was facing in October and was implemented in order to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. Following the end of the firebreak, a new set of measures has been announced, setting out how people can meet and how business will be required to operate going forward in order to limit the risk of spread of the virus.

Following the firebreak, a new set of national measures has now replaced previous local and firebreak restrictions, and hospitality businesses are able to reopen from 9 November 2020. We are acutely aware of the immense challenges the hospitality sector has faced as a result of the measures taken to protect public health and save lives, and the new approach is based on the belief that mixing in regulated settings is safer than mixing in households.

For further information around the national arrangements for tourism and hospitality in Wales please see the updated guidance here: <https://gov.wales/guidance-for-tourism-and-hospitality-businesses-coronavirus-html#section-55624>.

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

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,