



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 14466

10 November 2020

Dear

ATISN 14450 – CLOSURE OF GYMS

Thank you for your request which I received on 27th October 2020. You asked for:

- Do you (First Minister) have a medical qualification?
- Are you (First Minister) a member of a secret society?

We can confirm that the First Minister does not have any medical qualifications, and we hold no information on the second question. However the many medical and scientific expert advisors that support the cabinet politicians, and provide the evidence and data relating to covid and the transmission of this virus are all qualified, and seen as leading experts in this field.

I would like to explain further the Welsh Government's approach to restrictions during the pandemic and for clarity, the reference to a 'lockdown' relates to the short, sharp firebreak introduced across Wales to help regain control of coronavirus, in place from 6pm Friday 23 October until 12:01am Monday 9 November 2020.

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 on the latest advice from our own scientific and medical advisors (TAC), SAGE and the WHO. When the Welsh Ministers considered proposals for the firebreak, this was not done on a sector by sector basis, looking at which sectors might need to close due to their individual risks. This is because the wider evidence led scientific and medical advisors to recommend that an across the board firebreak lockdown was needed, to save lives and keep Wales safe: in a national effort, which would mean sacrifices and commitment from us all. Considerations were made with regard to the cumulative impact of all the changes we might make, not the risk posed by any one activity. The discussion instead focussed on which services needed to remain open, as they would be essential to protect the health of the public during the period of the short lockdown.

Sport and leisure facilities were not included in the essential category as we can continue to exercise outdoors during the short firebreak.

The First Minister has recently begun to set out the new national measures following the “firebreak” and confirmed that gyms and leisure facilities can re-open from 9 November. You can find more information on the new measures in his statement [here](#).

I trust you will find this information helpful.

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