



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14556

21 January 2021

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 14556 – Reactivating shielding

In your Freedom of Information request dated 22 November 2020, you asked the following:

- What assessments were carried out to determine recommendation to fail to reactivate shielding for the most vulnerable individuals in relation to the local lock-down measures that were initiated?
- What scientific modelling was carried out in terms of predictions to mortality for those individuals comparing failing to re-activate compared to reactivate during these measures?
- Why there was a disparity between the science and medical advice for England and Scotland and Wales in relation to the recommendation for shielded individuals in relation to these measures.
- What assessments were carried out to determine recommendation to fail to reactivate shielding for the most vulnerable individuals in relation to the firebreak measures that were initiated?
- What scientific modelling was carried out in terms of predictions to mortality for those individuals comparing failing to re-activate compared to reactivate during these measures?
- Why there was a disparity between the science and medical advice for England and Scotland and Wales in relation to the recommendation for shielded individuals in relation to these measures.

We wrote to you on 26 November acknowledging your request, and clarifying that the last two points you raised were deemed not to be requests for information but would be considered as part of the process and our reply.

We issued our response letter to you on 22 December. In our response, we confirmed that the Welsh Government did not hold the information you requested and provided details of where information provided by the Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) and evidence considered by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) can be found.

In addition we provided you with a copy of an excerpt from our Frequently Asked Questions document, which explained the rationale for not reintroducing shielding during both the firebreak and local lockdown periods.

Your email of 22 December requests this internal review on the grounds that the Welsh Government must hold the scientific advice behind its decision making and the same should be available to the public.

Having conducted a review of your request, I confirm that the correct process was followed and the information that you requested is not held. The Welsh Government has not carried out its own research. Rather it relies on the research and analysis carried out by SAGE. The advice then informs our decision making. As our initial response informed you, the advice from these bodies is published on their websites for anyone to view. Consequentially I do not uphold your complaint.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: to casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ
Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)
Email: ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Frances Duffy
Director, Primary Care & Health Science