



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 14617

20 January 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 14617 – Evidence for new restrictions**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 2 December 2020. You have requested information regarding the evidence relating to the new restrictions, specifically:

1. All quantitative and qualitative data for the last 3 months relating to the spread of Covid19 infections by each institutional setting (as per information displayed on p10 of PHE document ***Weekly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) surveillance report*** October 2020).
2. Any analysis of Welsh data used in the decision-making process when reaching this decision announced by the First Minister
3. If this data is unavailable/not collected, an explanation of why it is not collected/available

### **Our Response**

#### **Point 1:**

You enclosed the report and the information on page 10 shows a graph with the weekly incidence per 100,000 by ethnicity for weeks 27 -39 (in England). This does not match the first part of your question which is talking about infection by each institutional setting. This is reported on elsewhere in the PHE document. On page 16 - Figure 20: Number of COVID-19 incidents by institution from week 27, England. I am assuming you made a mistake with the page number and the data we do collect on COVID-19 infections is published here:

**For household:**

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-6-12-december-2020>

## **For infections in Higher Education:**

<https://gov.wales/positive-coronavirus-cases-reported-higher-education-institutions-wales-27-september-13-december-2020>

## **For infections in adult care homes:**

<https://gov.wales/notifications-care-inspectorate-wales-related-covid-19-adult-care-homes-1-march-4-december-2020>

Public Health Wales publishes information on “hospital admission”, “hospital onset” and “hospital inpatients” infections as well as “schools surveillance” The link is to the main page, then clicking on the tabs as titled:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

Please note that the data from PHE on page 16 (which you asked for the Welsh equivalent includes COVID-19 incidents in Workplaces, Prisons and Food outlet/Restaurants. We do not collect or publish this information in Wales.

## **Point 2:**

Welsh Government decisions are informed by the latest available scientific evidence, which is published by the [Technical Advisory Cell](#) and [SAGE](#) on their respective webpages.

A summary of the available scientific evidence relating to the restrictions on hospitality and entertainment is available at the following links:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/technical-advisory-group-statement-regarding-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-in-the-pre-christmas-period.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-cell-summary-advice-27-november-2020>

Coronavirus thrives when we come together and there is always risk that as people come together to celebrate Christmas, they will catch or spread the virus. It is therefore important that in the run-up to 23 December, we do everything we can to make sure rates are low. We also know that as the consumption of alcohol increases, social distancing and the perception of risk decreases. Wherever people mix, there’s a risk of coronavirus being passed on.

As a result, the restrictions have been strengthened to focus on places where we meet and where coronavirus thrives. We have also drawn on the recent evidence from the UK Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies, which examined which interventions have had the biggest impact on the virus in this paper:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/939057/S0905\\_191120\\_O\\_Four\\_Nations\\_Autumn\\_Interventions\\_V1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939057/S0905_191120_O_Four_Nations_Autumn_Interventions_V1_.pdf).

It concludes the measures in Scotland’s level three and England’s tier three are effective, many of which are already in place in Wales, and we have adapted the other measures to a Welsh context:

- In hospitality – there will be no on-site sale of alcohol and premises will have to close at 6pm (this is in line with Scotland’s level three measures; in tier three areas in England all hospitality premises are closed except for takeaway)
- Indoor entertainment and visitor attractions must close.

These regulations were reviewed on 17 December and will be subsequently reviewed every three weeks.

**Point 3:**

We have no recorded information on this.

**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: [Freedomofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedomofinformation@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,