



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN15159

4 June 2021

Dear

ATISN 15159 – End of face coverings timeline

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 21 May. You requested the following:

Please provide your timeline including milestones for the removal of the requirement for people to wear face coverings in public spaces.

Our response

I can confirm that Welsh Government does not hold the information you requested.

Our approach to controlling the Coronavirus in Wales is set out in the [Coronavirus Control Plan](#) which contains details of the alert levels and the public health measures in place at each level in Wales. The [Health Protection](#) and other regulations providing for Covid restrictions are reviewed every 21 days, the next review being on 3 June and every 21 days thereafter for as long as the regulations remain in force. Our Coronavirus control plan does not set specific dates for the move between levels but does describe the indicators which Ministers will take into account when reaching a decision. Therefore beyond what is set out in the published control plan and in the regular weekly announcements by Ministers, Welsh Government does not hold a “timeline including milestones” for the removal of the requirement on people to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces. There is no requirement on people to wear face coverings outdoors although they are free to do so if they wish.

The Welsh Government takes scientific and technical advice from The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies to inform its decisions in relation to dealing with emergencies. SAGE evidence and reports are published routinely [here](#). The Welsh Government's own Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) coordinates scientific and technical advice to support Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Ministers to make decisions during emergencies. TAC evidence and reports are published [here](#). There are a number of published reports in relation to the use of face coverings.

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

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