



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15875

25 January 2022

Dear

ATISN 15875 – Travellers Isolation Evidence

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 27 December 2021. You requested the following:

Copy of the evidence used to justify unvaccinated travellers to isolate for 10 days on arrival back to Wales.

I understand that you are interested in information informing decisions in to implement different arrangements for specified categories of fully vaccinated people arriving into Wales.

The Welsh Government holds information relevant to your request. However, this is considered to be exempt from disclosure as it relates to the formulation of government policy (section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act. In line with the terms of this exemption, we have also considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you this information and have concluded that it would not be. In reaching this decision, we have identified the following public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

- The general interest in transparency which can further understanding of how government policy is formulated
- Disclosure may serve to widen the base of stakeholder and public engagement which may in turn assist in the development and scrutiny of policy formulation

We also identified the following public interest arguments not in favour of disclosure:

- The public interest in maintaining space for decisions to be taken in respect of international travel policy which remains a very live and fast evolving area
- Prejudicing policy officials' and ministers' ability to seek and draw from scientific advice would be detrimental to decision making which is often finely balanced and affects people directly in significant ways
- The removal of a space where policy development can be discussed fully, could lead to miscommunication in an area where the Welsh Government depends on open dialogue with other UK administrations in order to ensure that policy positions reached in Wales are workable in practice and in the wider UK context, which is essential in this area.

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 e-mail: 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely