

16 September 2022

Dear

## **ATISN 16599 – Responsible Officers**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 22 August 2022. You requested the following:

- 1. Please confirm since 1 January 2016 how many doctors have approached for an alternate RO request and how many such requests have been approved?*
- 2. When an RO has a conflict of interest or a concern is raised about their behaviour by a whistle-blower; what policies are followed by the CMO to protect the whistle-blower and to verify the evidence.*
- 3. Please explain the composition of the CMO's office and who all are accessing correspondence addressed to the CMO.*
- 4. Please confirm the pathway applied by the CMO's office when public interest disclosures are made to the CMO?*

### **Our Response**

- 1. Please confirm since 1 January 2016 how many doctors have approached for an alternate RO request and how many such requests have been approved?*

We have received one request within this time therefore no alternate RO requests have been approved.

- 2. When an RO has a conflict of interest or a concern is raised about their behaviour by a whistle-blower; what policies are followed by the CMO to protect the whistle-blower and to verify the evidence.*

The CMO follows Welsh Government procedures on whistleblowing and public interest disclosures in conjunction with the GMC guidance for RO's.

Information can be found in the Civil Service Code here:

[Civil Service Code | GOV.WALES](#)

- 3. Please explain the composition of the CMO's office and who all are accessing correspondence addressed to the CMO.*

There are seven individuals who have access to CMO's mailbox within the CMO's Business Management Team, they are:

- Chief Medical Officer
- Public Health Policy Advisor
- Personal Assistant to the CMO
- Assistant Private Secretary
- Senior Business Manager
- Business Manager
- Executive Assistant to Director of Health & Wellbeing

*4. Please confirm the pathway applied by the CMO's office when public interest disclosures are made to the CMO?*

The CMO office follow Welsh Government procedures on whistleblowing and public interest disclosures, following the pathway set out in this guidance.

**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](mailto: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,