

21 April 2023

Dear

ATISN 17356 – COVID-19 Clinical Pathways

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 31 March 2023. You have requested as follows:

According to a recent written statement by Health Minister Eluned Morgan, the Welsh Government developed a series of national clinical pathways and guidelines for the assessment and management of COVID-19 in Wales which were rolled out digitally.

Please provide details of these clinical pathways and guidelines which would have been distributed to all health boards in Wales.

Our response

In early 2020, the Welsh Government established a set of groups to oversee the NHS and social services response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included a subgroup for acute secondary care provision, and a subgroup for primary and community care provision. Each group commissioned a national guideline to support clinicians in Wales to assess and manage cases of COVID-19. The guidelines were developed by NHS clinical advisers and were periodically updated during the pandemic as new evidence emerged. The guidance for acute secondary care settings was issued as a digital weblink, so that clinicians accessing the guideline would always see the most up to date guidance. The guidance for primary and community care was initially issued as a document (four versions were issued) before it was replaced with a weblink to a digital guideline in December 2020. I enclose as separate documents:

1. The All Wales COVID-19 Secondary Care Management Guideline. (Document 1)
2. All Wales Guideline for the Management of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the Community during winter 2020/21; issued in December 2020. (Document 2)
3. Version four of the toolkit which preceded the above guideline (no.2); this includes a list of amendments made to all preceding versions. (Document 3)

Please note that the Welsh Government does not keep a complete record of clinical guidance developed by the NHS for use by the NHS. The documents enclosed reflect what is recorded in the Welsh Government's filing system and represented the guideline as they were at the time of capture.

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,