

10 May 2024

Dear

ATISN 19490 – WHO Memorandum of Understanding

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 18 April 2024. You have requested the following:

- *Please provide details of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2020 and also the renewed MOU signed in 2023.*

Our Response

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and the Welsh Government was signed in 2020 by the then Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething and Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe. The MoU was agreed for a period of three years (2020-2023) with the option to renew after that. It covered the areas of health equity and rights, investment for health and wellbeing, and the essential conditions for achieving the highest possible level of health, sustainable development and prosperity for all.

Areas of Collaboration included within the MoU:

1. Accelerate progress towards healthy, prosperous lives for all, increasing equity in health and leaving no one behind in Wales and in the WHO European Region, enabling sustainable investment and solutions towards prosperity for current and future generations
 - Health Equity Status Report
2. Strengthen the role of Wales in the WHO European Region and globally, developing and sharing solutions and expertise, collaborating with WHO networks, forums, partners, Member States, territories and areas.
 - Generate and share know-how and innovation in health sector and government solutions (policy, systems and approaches) to accelerate healthy and prosperous lives for all.
 - Tools for modelling, developing and sharing solutions for policy and action across the life course, sectors and settings, establishing Wales as a live policy innovation site.

Subsequently, in 2023, the MoU was renewed for a further period of three years (2023-2026). The renewed MoU was signed by the then Minister for Health and Social Services, Eluned Morgan along with Lynne Neagle, the then Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing. For the WHO, the renewed MoU was signed by Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

The renewed MoU agreed to further strengthen cooperation and set out deliverables under each of the two areas of collaboration included within the original MoU.

1. Accelerate progress towards healthy, prosperous lives for all, increasing equity in health

and leaving no one behind in Wales and in the WHO European Region, enabling sustainable investment and solutions towards prosperity for current and future generations.

Deliverable 1: Progress the Health Equity Solutions Platform for Wales.

2. Strengthen the role of Wales in the WHO European Region and globally, developing and sharing solutions and expertise, collaborating with WHO networks, forums, partners, Member States, territories and areas.

Deliverable 2: Continue to develop, pilot and share innovative approaches and solutions for policy and action, establishing Wales as a live innovation site for enabling and progressing Well-being Economies.

Deliverable 3: Resource mobilisation, horizon scanning and capacity building to support Wales and WHO Member States, territories and areas to shift towards Well-being Economies with health and equity at the centre.

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,