

05 March 2024

Dear

ATISN 23342 - Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee

Thank you for your request which I received on 05 February. You asked for:

Copies of all materials used during the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee Technical briefing with Welsh Government Officials on Monday 3rd February 2025.

As you directed this request to the Welsh Government, I interpreted the request to be for copies of all materials used by Welsh Government Officials during the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee Technical briefing on Monday 3rd February 2025.

Our response

I am able to provide you with some of the information you have requested. I have concluded that some of the information you requested is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000): *Information intended for future publication*.

I attach a copy of the presentation used by Welsh Government Officials during the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee Technical briefing on Monday 3rd February 2025. Some of the material within the presentation has been withheld based on the above exemption.

Section 22 is a publicly tested exemption. I have set out my arguments for non-disclosure at annex 1 of this letter.

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

Annex 1

Section 22: Information intended for future publication.

The Welsh Government believes that Section 22 is applied in relation to some of the requested information. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to the public interest test. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, any personal interest of the requester notwithstanding, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

The general presumption of openness and transparency, which the Freedom of Information Act aspires to.

Public interest arguments against disclosure

This information will be available to the public as part of the publication of the Wales risk and preparedness register planned for early 2025. At that time the information will be set in an appropriate context with supportive information provided to aid understanding. The publication relates to a commitment made in our response to the Module 1 (resilience and preparedness) report of the UK Covid-19 public inquiry. Our response can be viewed here - [UK COVID-19 Inquiry module 1 \(resilience and preparedness\): Welsh Government response](#)

The Welsh Government acknowledges the public interest in openness and transparency and it is committed to make this information available to the public shortly.

In light of the information above we believe the public interest would be better served in the information being published alongside other relevant information, as planned. To that end, I believe the information should be withheld under s22 of the Act, until it is published in due course