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Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 436
Date request received	20 September 2020
Date information is due to be sent	18 October 2020

Information Requested:

Covid Breakdown RCT - Can you provide a breakdown of new cases individually for Rhondda, Cynon, and Taf as opposed to grouping them together?

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Public Health Wales are in the process of adjusting their reporting system in order to show Covid-19 Cases in Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA). This means that we will report cases at a lower level, giving a clearer indication of clusters within each area.

This work to produce this is due to be published as a matter of routine in the near future. Under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can refuse a request for information that is due to be published in the future. Before doing so however, I am required to consider the public interest in either releasing the information immediately or engaging the exemption. Whilst there is clearly a significant amount of public interest in the information requested, there is also significant public interest in delivering an effective Public Health service at the present time. Developing the information to make it suitable for publication at this time would incur diverting resources from the critical day to day work of managing the pandemic thereby degrading the other services that Public Health Wales is required to deliver as part of the response to the emergency. Bearing in mind the short timescale by when the information is due to be published anyway, it is my opinion that the public interest in releasing the information is outweighed

by the public interest in maintaining the public health service. As a result, I am engaging the exemption provided by Section 22 and refusing the request.

John Lawson

Head of Information Governance,

Public Health Wales NHS Trust

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Email: wales@ico.org.uk