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CYMRU  
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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<b>FOI Reference:</b>	<b>FOI 370</b>
<b>Date request received</b>	<b>23 June 2020</b>
<b>Date information is due to be sent</b>	<b>21 July 2020</b>

### Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request information on who authorised the use of the BLM hashtag and information of your social media marketing policy as a government organisation.

Message received via Social Media

### Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Public Health Wales is an NHS organisation, rather than a government organisation. We recognise that the legacy of systemic and institutional racism still continues to affect people in Wales today and as a public body we have a responsibility to promote equality. In fact, this obligation is enshrined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015). The Act requires all public bodies in Wales to work towards a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). You can read more about this here: <https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

As an organisation we recognise racism and discrimination is an issue that affects not only our members of staff and NHS workers across Wales, but also our service users whose reliance on us has increased at this most challenging of times. Therefore we are committed to diversity, inclusion and making sure that everyone feels welcome, and can be themselves without fear of discrimination. We have made clear commitments through our Equality Strategy and our Annual

Equality Report which you can read here: <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/black-lives-matter/phw-annual-equality-report-2018-19/>

As an organisation we made a conscious decision to support the Black Lives Matter movement. This is because evidence identifies that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people continue to fight every day against racism, and the impact from the negative effects it has on their lives. We believe by visibly supporting our BAME communities, this will help to dismantle the ways in which institutions and culture are deeply rooted in oppression.

### **Public health advice for mass gatherings**

Although Public Health Wales strongly supports the Black Lives Matter movement, the public health advice is that people should stick to Welsh Government social distancing rules, and avoid mass gatherings of any kind.

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](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)