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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 643
Date request received	31 January 2021
Date information is due to be sent	1 March 2021

Information Requested:

I would like to request copies of all correspondence (including e-mails, improvement notices, visits etc) between yourselves and Swansea Council - and also between yourselves and DVLA regarding Coronavirus management at the DVLA. Please include everything from March 2020 to the date of this request.

The e-mails should include senior management. I appreciate that personal details may be redacted.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. The outbreak at the DVLA was declared over on 24 February 2021. Public Health Wales will issue a close out report within 3 months of the outbreak being declared over.

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 or engaging the exemption. Whilst there is a significant amount of interest in the information requested, there is also a significant public interest in delivering an effective Public Health service at this present time. Developing the information to make it suitable for publication at this time would incur diverting resources from the critical day to day resources of managing the pandemic thereby degrading the other services that Public Health Wales is expected to

deliver as part of the response to the emergency. Whilst the report will be published within 3 months we aim to do this as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The comprehensive outbreak report will provide full details of the investigation, findings, evidence of meetings that took place and recommendations. It will not be helpful to provide correspondence prior to release that may be taken out of context and cause unnecessary harm or confusion. The report will be formulated by the members of the outbreak control team and present an independent view that is publically available.

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.

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