

Emma Findlay  
request-729985-8be23395@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202100162282

15 March 2021

Dear Emma Findlay

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)**

Thank you for your request dated 19 February 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Request

You asked for:

....access to the research findings and scientific evidence used to support the decision not to allow children from P-4 upwards to attend Education facilities. In the most recent letter sent to parents by Scot gov you explicitly mention that your rationale underpinning this decision was in fact based on the scientific evidence and findings that children younger do not pass the virus. Please show me the findings of such scientific evidence and research. May I also be explicitly shown the age range for these discoveries.

Response

The First Minister announced on 4 January 2021 a legal requirement to stay at home except for essential purposes. Schools and ELC settings would remain closed for the majority of pupils, except vulnerable children and children of key workers. This was a precautionary measure, based on the increased number of COVID-19 cases in Scotland, the growing proportion of these being of the new variant of COVID-19, and the high level of community transmission taking place. At the time, the First

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Minister made it clear that the priority was to reopen school buildings again for all children and young people, as quickly as possible, and to keep them open.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: - 24 February 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 9 February 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 26 January 2021 – 19 February 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 26 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advice on mitigations to minimise transmission of COVID-19 during phased return to in-person learning – 12 February 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advice on mitigations to minimise transmission during phased return to in-person learning - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Advisory note from the Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advice on phased return to in-person learning in schools and early learning and childcare (ELC) settings – 3 February 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advice on phased return to in-person learning in schools and early learning and childcare \(ELC\) settings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 2 February 2021 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) – 2 February 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement - 2 February 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 12 January 2021 – 28 January 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 12 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: - 15 January 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 6 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

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COVID-19 Education Recovery Group minutes: 7 January 2021

[COVID-19 Education Recovery Group minutes: 17 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 4 January 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement - 4 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

COVID-19 Education Recovery Group minutes: 17 December 2020

[COVID-19 Education Recovery Group minutes: 17 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech - 19 December

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's speech - 19 December - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on reducing the risks in schools](#)

Non-statutory guidance to ensure a safe and supportive environment for learning and teaching during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on reducing the risks in schools - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 14 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advisory note on school holidays over the festive season – 3 December 2020

[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advisory note on school holidays over the festive season - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission- summary report

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from covid-19 - summary report](#) – 3 December 2020

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Graeme Logan Director of Learning Scottish Government Area, 2B North Victoria Quay EH6 6QQ or by email to: [DirectorofLearning@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorofLearning@gov.scot)

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days following the date we receive your review request. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.asp>

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
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Yours sincerely

Frank Creamer  
**CURR : Curriculum Unit**

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