

G Simpson
request-724388-1aaa4740@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202100151007
Your Reference: request-724388-1aaa4740

22 February 2021

Dear Miss Simpson

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

Thank you for your request dated 4 February 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

You asked that the government release under FOISA

Why did the Scottish government choose to

- 1) ignore the science produced by SPi-B and DfE?
- 2) not follow the science produced by SPi-B and DfE?
- 3) choose to put our children at risk of suicide by continuing to keep them out of school?
- 4) what other scientific evidence or any evidence did the Scottish GOV have available to them that aided the decision to ignore the SPi-B and DfE report and close the school and cause unnecessary child suicide deaths? Please provide all data , statistics, information, minutes, document etc that were used in making this decision to put our children at risk of suicide
- 5) Does the Scottish government also only apply and follow the health science if it fits in with the Scottish government political agenda and policy making of a sustainable future? If its all about saving lives, why did you ignore this science and close schools again when aware of this?
- 6) Do the Scottish Government make decisions on lockdown measures and restrictions based on

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scientific evidence from SAGE and their behavioural dept?

7) please provide all documentation, evidence, science, policies, that were considering and discussed by the Scottish Government prior to closing schools again in Nov/Dec 2020 and why they remain closed?

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 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 (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
[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 \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 12 February 2021

COVID-19 Education Recovery Group: children and young people infographic
Infographics providing a weekly snapshot of current COVID-related data in relation to children and young people, and their associated workforce, such as the number of tests and positive cases reported, and the attendance and absence of both children and staff in childcare and school settings.
[COVID-19 Education Recovery Group: children and young people infographic - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 11 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
[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 \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 3 February 2021

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

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

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[January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): 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- summary report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) – 28 January 2021

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 6 January 2021
[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 6 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) – 15 January 2021

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 10 – 1 January 2021

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 15 December 2020
[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 15 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) – 23 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 1 December 2020
[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 1 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) – 21 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advisory note on school holidays over the festive season
[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advisory note on school holidays over the festive season](http://www.gov.scot) – 3 December 2020

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](http://www.gov.scot) – 3 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - advice on face coverings, physical distancing and related matters
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - advice on face coverings, physical distancing and related matters](http://www.gov.scot) – 8 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 17 November 2020
[Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues minutes: 17 November 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) – 25 November 2020
Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 21 January 2021

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 21 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
– 9 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
[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 \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 3 February 2021

Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 7 January 2021 [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 7 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 1 February 2021

– Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 30 December 2020
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 30 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 28 January 2021

– The impact of COVID-19 on education and children's services
[The impact of COVID-19 on education and Children's services - Committees - UK Parliament](#) – 19 January 2021

Seventy-sixth SAGE meeting on Covid-19, 14th January 2021 Held via Video Teleconference
[SAGE 76 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 14 January 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) – 14 January 2021

Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 3 December 2020
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 3 December 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 22 December 2021

– [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

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 9 – 11 December 2020

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 8 (supplement - transmission) – 11 December 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - advice on face coverings, physical distancing and related matters
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - advice on face coverings, physical distancing and related matters - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 8 December 2020

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

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[school holidays over the festive season - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 3 December 2021

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

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission- summary report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – 3 December 2021

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 8 – 27 November 2020

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 7 – 6 November 2020

Sixty-fifth SAGE meeting on Covid-19, 4th November 2020 Held via Zoom Role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2 – **4 November 2020**

[SAGE 65 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 4 November 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) – 4 November 2020

Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance, 4 November 2020

[Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance, 4 November 2020 \(who.int\)](#) – 4 November 2020

COVID-19 in Children and Young People: Literature Scanning Report 6 – 30 October 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

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.itspubliknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.asp>

Yours sincerely

Frank Creamer
CURR : Curriculum Unit

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