



J Grove
request-825352-15347355@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202200274951

5 April 2022

Dear J Grove,

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

Thank you for your request dated 24 January 2022 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

I apologise for the delay in responding to your request for information. The delay has arisen as a result of the very high volumes of correspondence that we are experiencing in relation to the coronavirus outbreak. We are taking steps to ensure that FOI requests are processed timeously in future, and I apologise for the inconvenience on this occasion.

Your request

You asked for:

'As a Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 request please provided the recorded dates for all memoranda, reports and other communications from the CMO and NCD to the Scottish Government on the effect of mask wearing on the following:

1. *Child speech and language development.*
2. *Mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.*
3. *Children and young people who are deaf or have partial hearing.'*

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



Response to your request

This is a formal notice under Section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

However, I have included some information below that you may find helpful:

On 7 July 2021, the Scottish Government published [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) mitigation measures among children and young people: evidence base summary](#), which summarises the evidence base around COVID-19 mitigation measures for children and young people in Scotland.

On 1 April 2022, the Scottish Government published the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - children, schools, early learning and childcare settings - evidence summary](#), which provides a summary of the latest evidence on the current state of the epidemic, the role of schools in transmission of COVID-19; the health and wider harms to children and young people from COVID-19; and workplace-associated risks to staff from COVID-19.

The Scottish Government also completes a number of Impact assessments including Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA). A CRWIA was completed and published in July 2021, the aim of this CRWIA was to analyse the impact of the face covering provisions within the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2021. You can find the CRWIA [here](#).

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 Richard Foggo, Covid Public Health Directorate, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or by emailing Covid-19.Director@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 and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when 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 [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Ross Grant
RSOC : Correspondence Team

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