

COVID Recovery Team
The Executive Office
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SR
E-mail: CovidRecovery@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Catherine Edgar

request-750742-3d8869d1@whatdotheyknow.com

Your Ref: Section 75
considerations.

Our Ref: FOI-2021-0032

Date: 27 May 2021

Dear Catherine,

Freedom of Information Act (2000):

I refer to your request which we received on 27 April 2021 for information to Section 75 considerations in relation to Covid-19 awareness advertising, promotion or health messaging.

I am writing to confirm that TEO has now completed its consideration of your request, as follows:

As we advised when we acknowledged your request, we are currently facing increased pressures due to Covid-19. This has led to a slower response time than we aim to achieve, however we have worked to keep any delay to a minimum. We apologise for the delay in responding to you and thank you for your patience in this regard.

REQUEST

Please can the Executive Office (TEO) provide evidence of Section 75 considerations in relation to Covid-19 awareness advertising / promotion / health messaging. In particular relating to:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2020/151/regulation/5/made>

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 “Reasonable Excuses” OR “Exemption” messaging specifically showing where the Executive Office (TEO) fulfils its statutory duty

to promote equality of opportunity between persons with a disability and persons without.

I can confirm that the Department does not hold the information requested.

However, I can advise you that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were created by the Department of Health. The Department of Health website provides Covid-19 advice to people with disabilities. For ease of access to this I have included the link below:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/covid-19-advice-people-disabilities>

The Department of Health may hold information on Section 75 considerations in relation to Covid-19 awareness advertising, promotion or health messaging, which may be helpful to you. They can be contacted at:

DoH Departmental Information Manager
FOI Unit
DoH
Annexe 3
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3SQ
E-mail: FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received in relation to our handling of this request, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should contact:

Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division
Room SD 24
Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3ST
E-mail: foi@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

In order to assist a thorough review, it would be helpful if you set out any particular grounds for complaint.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you then have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
WILMSLOW
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless the internal review procedure outlined above has been completed.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter, remembering to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Noreen Hughes

**NOREEN HUGHES
COVID RECOVERY TEAM**