



Cabinet Office

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Wynne Jones

By email: [minyrafon@btinternet.com](mailto:minyrafon@btinternet.com)

FOI Reference: FOI2020/10084

10/07/2020

Dear Wynne Jones

I refer to your request where you asked:

*“A copy of the latest scientific / medical paper available to Public Health England on the subject of face covering that has prompted the change in UK Government policy in England.”*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Cabinet Office.

You may wish to try contacting the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies at this link: [sage@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:sage@go-science.gov.uk), who may be able to help you with your request.

In recognition of the importance of transparency in these unprecedented times, SAGE has been publishing the statements and the accompanying evidence it has reviewed to demonstrate how the scientific understanding of COVID-19 has continued to evolve as new data emerges, and how SAGE’s advice has quickly adapted to new findings that reflect a changing situation.

You may also find it useful to know that changes to face coverings policy is considered an additional preventative and mitigating measure to the primary measures which

include social distancing, hand hygiene and surface cleansing. There is evidence to support the use of cloth masks in certain higher-risk settings, such as enclosed spaces where social distancing is not always possible, as a precautionary measure. This is outlined in a paper published by SAGE, [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Mitigating Measures](#), which signposts face coverings as one of 39 additional precautionary measures.

You might also find the following link helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Eirian Walsh Atkins  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. C.', written in a cursive style.

**FOI Team**  
**Cabinet Office**