



Government Office for Science

Government Office for Science
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(for those with hearing impairment)

Wynne Jones
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Date: 25/8/20
Ref: **GOS-COV-100820-0063**

Dear Wynne,

Thank you for your email of 10/8/20 where you requested the following information:

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

Response

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that we hold the information around the scientific evidence that you requested. This information is either already available or will become available in the near future meaning it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act. We are not required to provide information, which is already reasonably accessible to you, however in order to assist you we have included some relevant links below.

SAGE is an advisory group and not a decision-making group. It can provide advice on scientific process, but it is for government departments themselves to develop those processes and implement them in an assured way.

The scientific advice provided by **SAGE** is just one part of the picture, government makes decisions based on the best scientific evidence, along with consideration of the economic, operational, social and policy implications of any interventions that might be introduced.

SAGE is committed to the open sharing of the scientific advice. In recognition of the need for the public to see the scientific advice, many of the documents discussed at SAGE and its sub-committees since the outbreak began have already been released, with further releases due imminently.

These can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response>

[DELVE: Report on face masks for the general public, 21 April 2020](#)

[Potential impact of face covering on the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 in the UK, 20 April 2020](#)

[SPI-B: The use of facemasks in a community setting \(20 April 2020\)](#)

[NERVTAG: Wearing facemasks in a community setting - options and evidence \(16 April 2020\)](#)

[NERVTAG: Face mask use in the community \(13 April 2020\)](#)

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

Government Office for Science Internal Reviews
Government Office for Science
10 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0NN
Email: foi.reviews@go-science.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you 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

Yours sincerely

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