



ATISN 15404

31 August 2021

Dear ,

ATISN 15404 – Isolation of COVID-19 virus

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 08 August 2021 regarding the isolation of Covid-19 virus. You asked for the following:

To provide copies of all records in the possession, custody or control of the Technical Advisory Cell describing the isolation of a SARS-CoV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a Covid-19 diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material.

Please inform me what your recommended RT-PCR Test Cycle Threshold is? Has this changed recently and, if so, when and why did it change?

Response

The information being requested is readily available and previously published, therefore has been exempted under Section 21 on the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have provided a link to the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log where this information can be located for your convenience: [FOI Release 15388: Isolation of COVID-19 virus | GOV.WALES](#)

Tests are carried out in either Public Health Wales (PHW) laboratories or by Lighthouse laboratories. Information about lab processes including amplification cycles will be held by PHW or the Department for Health and Social Care. Should you wish to submit a Freedom of Information request to these organisations, you can do so through the following channels:

Public Health Wales

<https://phw.nhs.wales/use-of-site/contact-us/freedom-of-information/>

Department for Health and Social Care

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response.

We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,

Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process

Yours sincerely,