



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 15521

15 October 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 15521 – PCR Testing for variants**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 18 September. You asked for:

Between the dates of 1 April 2021 to 20 September 2021:

- 1. The number of Welsh Government NHS PCR tests that were received from travellers arriving from abroad or back from holidays etc and were positive for COVID*
- 2. The number of these positive tests that were then sent for screening for sequencing to identify potential dangerous variants.*

### **Our response**

The data source for international travel testing is provided to Welsh Government from the UK Government Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The number of NHS PCR tests ordered for arriving travellers to Wales between the dates of 1 April 2021 to 30 September was 130,393.

During the same period there has been a total of 1,650 positive PCR tests received for arriving travellers to Wales of these 1,553 were unique. From the data provided we are not able to identify how many of these were Government NHS tests and how many were private provider tests.

Data for sequencing is only provided at a UK level and not provided on an individual nation basis. The UK wide data for NHS test positives and number sequenced from June – September 26<sup>th</sup> is provided in the table below. Please note not all positives can be sequenced as the process is dependent on the quality and quantity of the sample.

<b>NHS Tests</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Positives/Sequenced/%</b>
<b>June 2021</b>	766/221/29%
<b>July 2021</b>	1039/200/19.2%
<b>August 2021</b>	1210/693/57.2%
<b>September 2021 1<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></b>	694/329/47.4%

### **Next steps**

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

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto: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,