



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15872

21 January 2022

Dear

ATISN 15872 – Covid 19 Virus

Thank you for your enquiry to the Welsh Government received on 24 December 2021 relating to the sars covid19 virus. Your requested the following:

1. The proof of the sars, Covid19 virus has been isolated, or exists on record anywhere in the UK or in the world.
2. The proof of the Delta variant mutation, from the Covid19 virus has been isolated, or exists on record anywhere in the UK or in the world.
3. The proof of the Omnicron variant mutation, from the Covid19 virus has been isolated, or exists on record anywhere in the UK or in the world.
4. Can you please supply me information on how you test for variants of the Covid19 variants, which include Delta, & Omicron.
5. Is there specific tests to prove different Variants of the Covid19 virus.

Our Response

The information you have requested is available in the public domain.

The GISAID Initiative promotes the rapid sharing of data from all influenza viruses and the coronavirus causing COVID-19. This includes genetic sequence and related clinical and epidemiological data associated with human viruses, and geographical as well as species-specific data associated with avian and other animal viruses, to help researchers understand how viruses evolve and spread during epidemics and pandemics.

[GISAID - Initiative](#)

COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium (COG-UK) is a pioneer in the use of large-scale, rapid whole-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the COVID-19 pandemic, to understand viral transmission and evolution, and to inform public health responses and

vaccine development. This website is regularly updated and provides the information on the variants and informs the difference on genomics and genotyping.

[COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium \(cogconsortium.uk\)](https://cogconsortium.uk)

Finally, technical briefing documents on novel SARS-CoV-2 variants have been published on UK Government website: [Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 variants: technical briefings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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

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,