

4 December 2023

Dear

### **ATISN 19245 – Wastewater Covid Monitoring**

Thank you for your email to the Welsh Government which was received on 06 November 2023. You had referred to an article published by "Nation Cymru" on 04 November 2023 and requested the following:

- 1. The estimated cost of the resumed monitoring / testing programme in Wales.*
- 2. The location of hospitals, and other sites in Wales, where monitoring was expanded earlier this year.*
- 3. The location of specialist laboratories in Wales with the expertise to analyse the wastewater samples utilising the RT-qPCR diagnostic test for Covid 19 infection.*
- 4. The amplification cycle threshold [Ct] value used in the RT-qPCR diagnostic test for Covid 19 infection.*

### **Our Response**

1. The cost of resuming wastewater monitoring in Wales between September 2023 – March 2024 is £621,000.
2. The hospitals and wastewater treatment works (WwTW) monitored earlier this year are: Aberystwyth (Glan Yr Afon), Bala, Bangor Treborth, Benllech Outfall, Bethesda, Betws-Y-Coed, Brecon, Builth Wells, Cardiff Bay, Cardigan, Cilfynydd, Cog Moors (Dinas Powys), Dolgellau, Fishguard, Five Fords (Wrexham), Ganol, Garnswllt, Gowerton, Holyhead, Kinmel Bay, Lampeter, Llanasa (Nr Prestatyn), Llandrindod Wells, Llanelli Coastal, Llanfoist, Llanfyllin, Llangefni, Lletty Brongu (Nr Maesteg), Machynlleth, Merlins Bridge, Monmouth (Wyesham), Newport Nash, Newtown, Parc-Y-Splott, Pembroke Dock, Pen-Y-Bont (Merthyr Mawr), Ponthir, Porthmadog, Pwllheli, Queensferry, Ruthin, Swansea Bay, Talgarth, Tenby, Tywyn, Welshpool, Ystradgynlais, Ysbyty Bronglais, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Ysbyty Glangwili, Ysbyty Gwynedd, Ysbyty Llandough, Ysbyty Morriston, Ysbyty Royal Glamorgan, Ysbyty Wrexham Maelor.
3. After undertaking a procurement exercise to identify suitable facilities we are only aware of two laboratories in Wales that possess the specific experience, equipment and expertise to undertake high throughput wastewater analysis for human viruses - those being the Wastewater Research Centre at Bangor University and the Water Research Institute at Cardiff University.
4. Our laboratory uses a published method (<https://www.mdpi.com/2409-9279/4/1/17>) with a maximum amplification cycle threshold (Ct) of 40 for the RT-qPCR diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2.

## **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,