



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<b>FOI Reference:</b>	<b>FOI 477</b>
<b>Date request received</b>	<b>20 October 2020</b>
<b>Date information is due to be sent</b>	<b>17 November 2020</b>

### Information Requested:

Please answer the following as per freedom of information rights.

1. Please provide data r.e proof of transmission of covid.,i.e transmission areas of covid 19.
2. Can you also clarify that 1. A case does not necessarily go on to be ill and
3. 2.The test is fit for purpose I. e able to distinguish covid 19 and not other respiratory illness

### Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request for information.

1. It is very difficult to prove exact source of transmission for every individual case of Covid-19, especially when there is a low number of cases within a particular setting, for example in schools. Where there is a high number of cases in a particular setting, we would assume that the virus has been transmitted within the workforce and take localised actions.
2. Yes that is correct. Some individuals that are confirmed as positive for Covid-19, remain asymptomatic and do not go on to be ill. However, it is still possible for them to transmit the virus to other people who may become ill in the future, hence the need for these individuals so self-isolate.

3. Yes the test is able to distinguish Covid-19 and not other respiratory illnesses. The diagnostic test used in the UK is called a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, which looks for the virus's genetic material to see if someone currently has Covid-19.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor  
Churchill House  
Churchill Way  
Cardiff  
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)