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Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 573
Date request received	31st December 2020
Date information is due to be sent	29th January 2021

Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (200), please provide a full, accurate and complete list of records held within your office, and or under your authority, describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly taken from a symptomatic patient of COVID-19 where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material. Examples of genetic material in this instance include, but is not limited to, monkey kidney cells or liver cancer cells, thereby eliminating contamination as a possible alternative source of sampling.

Please note isolation in this instance includes the act of separating a thing from another. It is important to note I am not referring, and hence not requesting, to isolation meaning the culture of something else, the performance of an amplification test (e.g., RT-PCR test which only detects mRNA or DNA) or the sequencing of 'something'.

If any records match the above description and are available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information so that I may be able to identify and access each record with certainty (i.e., title, author(s), date, journal, and weblink or location where the public may access it).

I remind you full, accurate and complete disclosure is required.

Given that the Department of Health and Social Care, London and the National Public Health Emergency Team, Ireland have both recently confirmed, in writing, that SARS-COV-2/COVID-19 does not exist, I eagerly await your reply.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Public Health Wales has not produced any of the above mentioned material. Under the Freedom of Information Act, we are not obliged to provide you with any documentation that is available in the public domain.

I am sorry that I cannot be of more help on this occasion.

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