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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 451
Date request received	05 October 2020
Date information is due to be sent	2 November 2020

Information Requested:

With regards to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests conducted by NHS Wales laboratories, and other private laboratories used for Welsh tests for coronavirus Cov-Sars2 reported by Public Health Wales, can you please state the following: The number of Amplification Cycles performed in tests on each of the following dates:

19 August 2020
26 August 2020
2 September 2020
9 September 2020
16 September 2020
23 September 2020
30 September 2020

If any change in the number of Amplification Cycles has been made between 1 August 2020 and 4 October 2020, can you please state the date on which this occurred.

If this information is not held by the Public Health Wales, please advise the body to which it should be directed.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request.

The real-time PCR assays in use in Wales for COVID-19 diagnostics all run for 45 cycles however, the cycle number where the sample is defined as RNA NOT DETECTED varies by platform and target gene detected by the system. This is defined by the manufacturer. One platform (Hologic) is isothermal, this means it

does not cycle through temperature changes in the same way as the real-time PCR systems, therefore CT values are not reported by this system.

There have been no methodology changes during the timeframe requested.

Public Health Wales does not use any other private testing laboratories for Welsh tests. However, samples are also tested via the Light House Laboratory Network. They use different machines and you will need to approach the UK Department of Health and Social Care as they coordinate those arrangements.

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