



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 461
Date request received	10 October 2020
Date information is due to be sent	7 November 2020

Information Requested:

I would like you to provide the follow information under a Freedom of Information request:

- (1) How many amplification cycles are being used in the PCR testing for Covid-19 approved/implemented by Public Health Wales?
- (2) Has the number of cycles been constant throughout the testing period, from March 2020 to the present?
- (3) If the number of amplification cycles varies among providers, can you give a breakdown of test provider, number of tests carried out, and number of amplification cycles used.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request.

1. 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.

2. Yes it has been consistent.

3. N/A

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