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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 487
Date request received	3rd November 2020
Date information is due to be sent	1st December 2020

Information Requested:

I would like to see:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Public Health England describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; liver cancer cells).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers *instead* to:

- the culturing of something, or
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or
- the sequencing of something.

Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the PHE or that pertain to work done by the PHE. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the PHE has downloaded or printed.

Please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it)."

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request.

Public Health Wales has not produced any of the above mentioned material. Any records that may be in possession of Public Health Wales would be material that is already in the public domain, which we would decline to supply under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. Under our duty to assist, we would ordinarily be willing to provide links or advise where you may be able to find such documentation if we held it within our systems, however the information above would prove to be too wide in terms of search parameters for us to identify any records with certainty that we hold.

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