

Dear Sir

In regard to your request for information under the Freedom of Information act detailed here:

1. Please advise do you hold information about measles virus strains circulating in Wales.
2. Please advise if there is a main UK organisation which holds that information for the UK about measles virus strains circulating in the UK and the name and contact details.
3. If you do hold information about measles virus strains circulating in Wales what kinds of information do you hold please?

Our answers:

1. Yes Public Health Wales does hold information on measles virus strains circulating in Wales
2. This would be the Health Protection Agency
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/> Now part of the Public Health England set up based at Colindale in North London.
 - a. **PHE Colindale**
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5EQ
Tel: 020 8200 4400
Fax:020 8200 7868
3. Yes but limited ... All positive cases of measles are referred to the central testing laboratory (see question 2) for confirmation and where possible strain designation achieved through genomic sequencing. If cases are confirmed only by serology in later stages of the illness, then strain typing by this method is not possible. We therefore only have strain types from very acute cases where virus is present in the sample.
4. Last November, Public Health Wales published information on the types of measles viruses which circulated during the 2012-13 outbreak, in the Outbreak Report see:
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/29688> . The relevant section of the report is '6.2.3 Measles virus genotyping', page 22.

If you have any further specific questions please come back to me.