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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 418
Date request received	25 August 2020
Date information is due to be sent	23 September 2020

Information Requested:

I request some information regarding the current testing of individuals in Wales for Covid-19. As a resident of Cardiff I am concerned about the legitimacy of the testing and its use for creating policies that disrupt society.

- 1) Please tell me if the RT-PCR test is currently being used to diagnose all the cases.
- 2) Please tell me what primer sequencers are currently being used for the test.
- 3) Please tell me who, or which body, made the decision on which primer sequences to use currently.
- 4) Please tell me how many of those who have tested positive this last month are showing symptoms, are being hospitalised or have died as a result of Covid-19.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Please see responses to each of your questions below:

- 1) Please tell me if the RT-PCR test is currently being used to diagnose all the cases.

[RT-PCR is currently being used to diagnose all cases.](#)

2) Please tell me what primer sequencers are currently being used for the test.

Welsh labs use a number of different commercial platforms. These all use one or more of the gene targets specified for use by the WHO. The details of the primer sequences that they use are commercially sensitive and not published.

3) Please tell me who, or which body, made the decision on which primer sequences to use currently.

The genes to be targeted for testing were published by the WHO, with further information published by European Public Health microbiologists. These papers are attached.

4) Please tell me how many of those who have tested positive this last month are showing symptoms, are being hospitalised or have died as a result of Covid-19.

We publish a dashboard on a daily basis which provides rapid Covid-19 response data. The information provides hospital data as well as information on deaths where the individuals were in a Welsh hospital or care home setting and had died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test.

The Dashboard can be found here: [Covid-19 Dashboard](#)

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

