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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 508
Date request received	11th November 2020
Date information is due to be sent	9th December 2020

Information Requested:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information;

Please could you provide a number for how many COVID-19 test results have been 'lost' in Wales (or however your system records missing results following tests) resulting in either a retest or unnecessary period of self-isolation.

Can the above information be broken down by university health board area please?

In specified timeframe, can FOI officers look between the present date (Nov 11) and March 23.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance. If you believe that there may be cost limitations to my request, please provide as much information as you are able, within the constraints of that limit.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Unfortunately, we do not hold this information. I have consulted with the relevant department who have advised that PHW/NHS Laboratories has an electronic record of the Covid-19 sample after arrival at the Laboratory and laboratories do not have detail on the sample lifetime before this.

The health boards may hold some of this information but it would not be a whole Wales picture as a proportion of Wales Covid-19 samples are sent to Lighthouse Laboratories.

I am providing you with the relevant links:-

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/page/39187>

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/39134>

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

<http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-new>

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

<https://cwmtafmorgannwg.wales/foi/>

Swansea Bay University Health Board

<https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/about-us1/foia/>

Hywel Dda University Health Board

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/52085>

Powys Teaching Health Board

<http://www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information>

Further information regarding the Lighthouse Laboratories can be found through accessing the link below:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-test-and-trace-how-we-test-your-samples/nhs-test-and-trace-how-we-test-your-samples>

I am sorry that I cannot be of further assistance on this occasion.

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