



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<b>FOI Reference:</b>	<b>FOI 398</b>
<b>Date request received</b>	<b>29 July 2020</b>
<b>Date information is due to be sent</b>	<b>26 August 2020</b>

### Information Requested:

I am requesting the following information:

- Any genome sequencing evidence which show a lineage link between hospital discharges to residential or nursing care homes.
- Specific evidence from the research done around UK Cluster 61, identified as the largest UK Cluster in March and April. Specifically associated with Aneurin Bevan health Board and any associated Care Homes.

### Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. The response to your questions are below:

- Any genome sequencing evidence which show a lineage link between hospital discharges to residential or nursing care homes.

Public Health Wales does not hold this information. The requested information is not routinely collated or linked to the genome sequence data. The only patient data that is routinely linked to genomics data is the data that can be extracted from the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) based upon the episode number of the sequenced sample. The queries used to do this do not retrieve patient outcome or hospital discharge information at present, nor do they extract information to identify if an individual is a care home resident. Therefore, we have no genome sequencing evidence that shows a link between hospitals and

care homes. Ongoing investigations may collate and link discharge information, circulating genomic lineages in hospitals and genome sequence samples from care homes, however at this moment any such analyses are yet to be performed/completed.

- Specific evidence from the research done around UK Cluster 61, identified as the largest UK Cluster in March and April. Specifically associated with Aneurin Bevan health Board and any associated Care Homes.

Public Health Wales Genomics does not hold any specific research/evidence on UK61 relating to care homes. UK61 is one of the largest UK lineages, which is now known to be found in both hospitals and the community in Wales and England. At present, no specific work has been undertaken to examine UK61 in the context of care homes by PHW. The focus of our analyses on UK61 have principally been around the spread in the community and healthcare settings. Our work on UK61 and our findings to date are summarised in the COG-UK report number 2, (<https://www.cogconsortium.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/1st-April-2020-Report-Covid-19-Genomics-Consortium-UK-COG-UK.pdf>) which is already publicly available.

As indicated in COG-UK report number 2, our principle focus is nosocomial transmission, and that report summarises the key information relating to the early outbreak due to UK61. The analysis of the growth of UK61 is a planned activity which is not expected to examine care homes, but rather will look at the growth of the cluster over time. Although the UK61 work is currently in the early stages, once it is complete it is planned that this research will be published in a peer reviewed journal.

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](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)