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Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<b>FOI Reference:</b>	<b>FOI 586</b>
<b>Date request received</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>Date information is due to be sent</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021</b>

### Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2014), regarding the RT-PCR test, please confirm the number of amplifying cycles employed in the laboratories and testing centres across Wales when screening for SARS-COV-2/Covid-19.

### Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request.

The real-time PCR assays in use in Wales for COVID-19 diagnostics all run for 45 cycles however, the cycle number where the sample is defined as RNA NOT DETECTED varies by platform and target gene detected by the system. This is defined by the manufacturer. One platform (Hologic) is isothermal, this means it does not cycle through temperature changes in the same way as the real-time PCR systems, therefore CT values are not reported by this system.

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)