Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOI Reference:</th>
<th>FOI 519</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date request received</td>
<td>20th November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date information is due to be sent</td>
<td>18th December 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information Requested:**

I attach "fact sheet" outlining issues with regard to the Covid-19 "Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction" [RT-PCR] testing process. I have continuing concerns that misleading information is being provided to Welsh Government ministers who appear to interpret a positive test result as a new Covid-19 infection. I would be grateful if you could carefully examine the content of the fact sheet and arrange to draw the issues to the attention of Welsh Government in order that informed decisions can be taken by ministers. Alternatively, if you wish to challenge the content I look forward to receiving a point by point rebuttal, supported by peer-reviewed medical papers.

Serious damage is now being inflicted on the Welsh economy and national health service through economic lockdown with hospitals unable to operate in a normal manner with lengthening waiting lists for urgent treatments. It is therefore of paramount importance that ministers receive factually correct information regarding the RT-PCR testing process to inform ministerial decisions as this drives government policy and process and information provided by the "Office for National Statistics" and mainstream media [including the BBC].

**Information provided for the answer:**

Thank you for your recent request.

I am writing to inform you that request for information about received on 20th November will not be processed.

I have decided that I must regard your request as vexatious within the meaning of Section 14[1] of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am not obliged to respond to
such requests and in accordance with Section 17 of the FOIA this letter acts as a refusal notice.

Having considered your request, and taking full account of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), and the Information Commissioner’s guidance on dealing with such requests, I have made the decision to treat these requests as vexatious and so under Section 14(1) FOIA, your request for information is refused.

Please note that any further requests of a similar nature will also be treated as vexatious and as permitted under the FOIA you will not receive any response.

The reasons that I have decided that your request is vexatious refers to my assessment of the request and its impact. I am not in any way, by using this term suggesting that I regard you as vexatious or that I consider you were unreasonable to make the request.

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