



**By email**

[cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru](mailto:cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru)

Our ref: 21/10/hf/1674

13 November 2020

Dear Wynne Jones,

**Re: Covid 19 Laboratory location - RT-PCR test**

Thank you for your email dated 17 October 2020. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) partly holds the information you have specified.

**Request**

***I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with the information [as set out in attached template] under the F O I Act 2000 / E I R 2004 relating to; Covid 19 laboratory location, RT-PCR test kits used in the laboratory, and recommended "Amplification Cycle Threshold " for Covid-19 infection recommended by kit manufacturer. The information can be provided in tabular format using the attached template.***

**Response**

PHE can confirm it holds information on testing kits used by PHE laboratories. However, to retrieve and extract the information to respond to your request as it stands would exceed the cost limit of £600. The cost limit is calculated at a staff rate time at £25 per person per hour working for 24 hours to respond to the request. Therefore, this information is exempt in accordance with Section 12 of the Act.

PHE does not hold information on testing kits used by non-PHE laboratories. These laboratories have a statutory duty to report positive cases to us, but they are not obliged to advise us which tests they are using.

Under Section 16 of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, I have provided a link below to PHE's page on assessment of laboratory tests and assays which you may find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-phe-assessment-of-laboratory-tests-and-assays>

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to us in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing [foi@phe.gov.uk](mailto:foi@phe.gov.uk).

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,  
FOI Team