



By email

cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru

Our ref: 13/11/ld/1923

30 November 2020

Dear Wynne Jones,

Re: 1923 – FOI Linked to 1674 – RT-PCR tests used at Colindale lab

Thank you for your emails dated 17 October and 13 November 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) does hold 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.

Clarification received from you dated: 13 November 2020

In view of the letter content my request for information can be restricted to a single laboratory under P H E control, located at Colindale London.

Response

PHE can confirm it holds the information you have specified.

The only CE marked kit used at the PHE Colindale lab is the *Mobidiag* test kit. The *Mobidiag* does not state a recommended "Amplification Cycle Threshold" for Covid-19 infection, as the test operator uses the Amplidiag analyser software which has predetermined call rules and quality check requirements.

Under Section 16 of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, you may find it helpful to know that kit instructions state that data is not collected from the first 10 cycles. Collection is made from cycle 10-45. In the Analyser software the visible amplification cycles are from 0-35, meaning that a sample with a Cq of 13 is in reality Cq23. The amplification curves can be manually inspected, but PHE does not believe the analysis settings can be changed.

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.

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