



Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14160

August 2020

Dear Mr Jones,

ATISN 14160 – COVID-19 Antibody Testing Process

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 15 July. You asked for –

- 1. The total sum allocated to Welsh Government by UK Government for antibody testing.*
- 2. Brief details of how COVID-19 antibody test results are to be used in Wales to inform government policy and process*
- 3. A copy of the product information sheet for antibody testing.*
- 4. Safety data sheet for antibody testing.*

On Q1, the Welsh Government has not received any consequential funding from the UK Government which are specifically related to antibody testing.

On Q2, there are currently two types of antibody tests being used in Wales: a laboratory assay and a lateral flow test. Both tests require a blood sample, with the latter being a point of care test requiring a finger prick blood sample.

There continues to be a lack of scientific evidence in relation to the presence of antibodies and the implications for immunity. Antibody testing in Wales is therefore, currently being used to help understand the prevalence of the virus within defined target cohorts for the purpose of understanding the cumulative level of historical infection. People receiving the antibody test in Wales are being made aware of this and that all protective measures designed to contain the spread of the virus will still need to be adhered to e.g. social distancing etc. as a positive antibody test does not confirm immunity.

Once testing of each of the defined target cohorts is concluded the overall test results will be analysed. Welsh Government will then consider this information and the implications for future testing strategies and policy developments.

On Q3/4, this information is readily available and has therefore been exempted under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have attached links to the requested information for your convenience.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/137609/download>

<https://www.fda.gov/media/137383/download>

<https://diagnostics.roche.com/content/dam/diagnostics/Blueprint/en/pdf/cps/Elecsys-Anti-SARS-CoV-2-factsheet-2020-JUL.pdf>

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Jones
Deputy Director of Operations



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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