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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

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| FOI Reference: | FOI 447 |
| Date request received | 1 October 2020 |
| Date information is due to be sent | 29 October 2020 |

Information Requested:

I refer to media reports on 30 September 2020 that planned surgery had been suspended at Royal Glamorgan Hospital Wales following confirmation from "Public Health Wales" that 82 Covid-19 cases had been detected at the hospital and 8 Covid-19 deaths. I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with the following information under the F O I Act 2000 / E I R 2004.

"The amplification cycle threshold [Ct] used in the Covid-19 RT-PCR testing process at Royal Glamorgan Hospital for positive Covid-19 diagnosis."

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request.

Samples from Royal Glamorgan Hospital for COVID testing may be tested in the laboratory in Royal Glamorgan Hospital or laboratories in the Public Health Wales network. 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