



# Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health and Social Care  
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[www.gov.uk/dhsc](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

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

11/08/2021

Dear Ms Jones,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1343025**

Thank you for your request dated 4 July, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Dear Team Members*

*Subject: C J 156: Genomic Sequencing data harvested from Covid 19 RT-PCR test results*

*I refer to a press release published by DHSC 2 July 2021. A copy is attached hereto. From your records, I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with the following information under the FOI Act 2000 / EIR 2004.*

*I would be pleased to receive the contact details [name and email address] of the designated data controller under Data Protection Act 2018 for the genomic sequencing data harvested from Covid 19 RT-PCR test results in the UK.*

*Additional information regarding the "genomic sequencing" process is set out in your press release, as attached. Harvesting of human DNA [deoxyribose nucleic acid] is classified as "personal data" by the Information Commissioner and therefore subject to the provisions of the D P A 2018. If you require further clarification you are welcome to contact me at any time. Thank you.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Wynne Jones”*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

DHSC holds the information you have requested.

Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus genomes was previously carried out by various institutions part of the COVID-19 Genomics UK (COG-UK) Consortium. Currently, Public Health England (PHE) perform sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus genomes. Both COG-UK and PHE only sequence SARS-CoV-2 genomes, patient genomes were not sequenced as part of this effort.

As specified in the press release enclosed by the citizen – sequencing of genomes of individuals (volunteers) who test positive with COVID-19 is being carried out by the GenoMICC consortium ([Genomicc.org](http://Genomicc.org)). DHSC does not hold information related to the GenoMICC consortium and we would recommend that the citizen get in touch with GenoMICC consortium for specifics.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to [FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk), or to the address at the top of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Ruiz Alexander  
Freedom of Information Officer  
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