



# Government Office for Science

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Date 15/03/21  
Ref no: GOS-COV-0903221-0168

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your email of 2/2/21 where you requested the following information:

*"I note, from an announcement on BBC News today, that, in addition to the two previous variants [VOC202012/01 and from South Africa], two further variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus have been identified with 11 cases in Bristol and 32 cases in Liverpool. Accordingly, I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide the following information under the F O I Act 2000.*

- ***A copy of the guidance provided to Public Health Laboratories on how to recalibrate the RT-PCR test to detect these two new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected at Bristol and Liverpool."***

## Response

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and is based on information held.

Under FOIA, we are required under section 1(1)(a) to confirm or deny whether the information is held.

We do not hold the information you request about guidance on how to recalibrate the RT-PCR test. Public Health England may be able to advise, they can be contacted at:  
[enquiries@phe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@phe.gov.uk)

## Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

Government Office for Science Internal Reviews  
Government Office for Science

10 Victoria Street  
London  
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Email: [foi.reviews@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:foi.reviews@go-science.gov.uk)

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

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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