



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15589

14 October 2021

Dear

ATISN 15589 – Thermal cycle

Thank you for your correspondence to the Welsh Government received on 11 October. You indicated your correspondence should be treated as a FoI request. It is important to note that The Freedom of Information Act, 2000, gives individuals a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority at the time the request was received. It does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide views or opinions where those views are not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner's guidance 'The Guide to Freedom of Information', page 7:

“The Act does not cover information that is in someone’s head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.”

As such, we have concluded that the majority of your points are simply making statements and do not ask for recorded information and therefore do not amount to a valid Freedom of Information request. The only valid FoI requests within your correspondence are made within points 1 and 4 (three requests in total). These request are for:

- 1. The thermal cycle used for COVID-19 PCR/LFT tests*
- 2. Copies of instructions issued to those laboratories processing the COVID-19 tests run properly blinded, virus-free negative controls regularly through their entire sample chain of custody.*
- 3. Information on how frequent the operational false positive rate is determined.*

In specific relation to information requested in points 1 and 4, Welsh Government does not hold this information. You may wish to contact Public Health Wales and Local Health Boards as they will be best placed to assist with your request. Please see below links that provide contact details for your convenience –

Public Health Wales - [Freedom of information - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#)

Health Boards - [Health in Wales | Health Services Near You](#)

If you have any queries about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the controller for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/freedom-of-information-responses>).

Yours sincerely,