



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2439

[REDACTED]

{By Email}

13 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about PCR testing, which we received on 28 June 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I request under the Freedom of Information Act, under which your public sector PCR testing activities fall, the following information:

1.The Cycle threshold (Ct) used by your organisation since 01 March 2020. for each of the Government Pillar classifications."

Covid-19 testing was undertaken by APHA during 2020 for Pillar 1 clinical swabs submitted by the NHS. The methodology comprised an ISO17025-accredited real time RT-PCR assay for SARS-CoV-2.

APHA real time RT-PCR assay for SARS-CoV-2- result interpretation:

Positive test sample $Cq \leq 37$

Negative test sample $Cq > 37$

Interpretation of all results produced adhered strictly to the defined criteria above, as required of the APHA quality assurance framework accredited to ISO17025.

"2. Any changes made to the Ct during this period and when any such changes were made."

No changes made during the testing period.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Postal requests during the COVID-19 outbreak

We are currently experiencing delays in replying to post that we have received. You should send queries to the relevant email address (details below) wherever possible. Please remember to include a return email address.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Coronavirus

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.