

## FOI 24/120 - In what cycle threshold the PCR test detects dead nucleotides

MHRA Customer Services <MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk>

Fri 01/03/2024 15:02

To

FOI 24/120

Dear

Thank you for your email correspondence with our FOI team on the 2nd of February 2024. where you submitted an FOI request for the following:

In what circle threshold the PCR detects only fragments of the covid 19 Virus that have no scientific importance. Fragments that are waste matter, harmless, dead, and with this fragments you can't make Viral culture.

As you have defined fragments as ' Fragments that are waste matter, harmless, dead, and with these fragments you can't make Viral culture' we believe that you are referring you non-target nucleic material and would like to know the cycle threshold that PCR only detects non-target material. To note, only target material or viral genetic material is amplified and detected during PCR. If our interpretation of your request is correct, then for more information, we advise that you look at the publicly available sources provided below, as the MHRA does not hold the information requested;

1. Cycle threshold (Ct) in SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
2. Explained: COVID-19 PCR Testing and Cycle Thresholds | Public Health Ontario
3. What is a Cycle Threshold Value? (idsociety.org)

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 you receive this response and addressed to: [MHRA request email]

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

If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

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Yours sincerely,

MHRA Customer Experience Centre  
Communications and engagement team  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 5:21 PM  
To: MHRA Customer Services <MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk>  
Subject: FOI 24/120 - In what cycle threshold the PCR test detects dead nucleotides

Dear MHRA Customer Services,

According to your above answer:

Quote The MHRA does not hold information on dead nucleotides as it is not a scientific term used in PCR. End of quote.

I would like to clarify my question.

In what cycle threshold the PCR detects only fragments of the covid 19 Virus that have no scientific importance. Fragments that are waste matter, harmless, dead, and with this fragments you can't make Viral culture.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]