



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14650

26 January 2021

Dear

ATISN 14650 – Evidence of COVID

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 11 December 2020. You have requested information regarding COVID 19, specifically:

1. *What is the name of the Primary Specialised Peer reviewed paper in which the Virus is illustrated and it's full generic information described?*
- 2: *Proof of the Isolation and Purification of Covid 19 according to Koch's Postulates which are:*
 - a. *The same Pathogen must be present in every case of the Disease.*
 - b. *The Pathogen must be isolated from the Diseased Host and grown in pure Culture.*
 - c. *The pathogen from the pure culture must cause the Disease when it is introduced into a healthy but susceptible organism.*
 - d. *The Pathogen must be isolated from the inoculated animal and be shown to be the original organism.*
- 3: *How many people who live in Wales have died from (not With) Covid 19 from 1st January 2020 until 2nd December 2020.*
- 4: *How many of those people that died from Covid 19 had underlying health conditions? And what were the underlying Health Conditions.*
- 5: *Is there an electron micrograph of the pure and fully Characterised Virus?*
- 6: *What is the name of the primary specialised peer reviewed paper which provides unequivocal proof that the Covid 19 virus is the sole cause of a particular Disease.*
- 7: *Can you please provide proof that the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction Test) can distinguish between "live" Virus and non-infective RNA?*

Response

Q 1 The SARS-CoV-2 virus was classified and named by the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses. A consensus statement from the Coronaviridae Study Group of the ICTV describing this process is in the public domain and can be found at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-0695-z>

Q2 The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention have successfully managed to isolate the COVID-19 Virus. I have attached a paper below on this matter -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/grows-virus-cell-culture.html>

Q3 On Q3, this information is readily available and therefore has been exempted under Section 21 on the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have provided links to where this information can be found for your convenience below –

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/nhs-activity-and-capacity-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Q4 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collect mortality data for England and Wales based on information collected on the death certificate. The ONS publish the number of reported deaths by method of certification and registration (including the number of post mortems) for England and Wales in their [user guide](#), but this is currently unavailable for the pandemic period. For more information on quality of mortality data during the coronavirus pandemic see the following report from the [ONS](#). For more information please contact health.data@ons.gov.uk.

This information is summarised for Wales on the Public Health Wales Rapid Covid-19 surveillance dashboard, which also considers deaths of hospitalised patients and care home residents confirmed with a positive test and the clinician suspects this was a causative factor in the death, under 'PHW deaths'. The dashboard is available at

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>.

Q5 The use of electron microscopy to study SAR-COV2 is continuing in many labs around the world, and the best results can be found doing a search of scholarly papers. Most scientific journals of note are making submissions on Covid-19 free to access. This nature paper shows an ultrastructural analysis - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-73162-5>. Welsh Government does not hold electron micrographs.

Q6 There is no primary peer reviewed paper that shows what you request. Covid-19 is a disease spectrum, and like every disease, the symptoms and clinical outcomes associated with infection by SAR-COV2 are unique to each person. What we do know is that the host immune response is more likely to result in some symptoms than others, and that the infection may present symptomatically, asymptotically or paucisymptomatically. Some severe responses have been shown to be associated with a cytokine storm, others with secondary bacterial or viral infection brought on by the exhaustion of the immune system responding to the SAR-COV2 infection. The BMJ and the Lancet are a useful source of primary papers on the disease spectrum of Covid-19 if you wish to pursue studies in this area.

Q7 The Technical Advisory Cell published its advice, key information and core principles, including the impact of false positive and false negative rates, on the use of the RT-PCR for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus on 15 July 2020, available at <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/core-principles-for-utilisation-of-rt-pcr-tests-for-detection-of-sars-cov-2.pdf>.

You may wish to contact Public Health Wales for further information around testing.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,