



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15584

4 November 2021

Dear

ATISN 15584 – Cost of COVID testing

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 09 October. You requested the following -

1) *Does the Welsh Government or the UK Government fund the following:*

A) PCR tests (with symptoms/positive LFT test) conducted in Wales.

B) LFT tests for those residents in Wales or those who are needing an LFT for a Covid passport.

2) *If the answer to (1) is the Welsh Government, what has been the cost (provide latest held figures, i.e. last financial year, calendar year etc.)?*

3) *If the answer to (1) is the UK Government, what is the estimated cost of these tests, conducted in Wales to the UK Government?*

4) *Information (emails, minutes etc) which provides dates as to when Covid passports will no longer be needed and, information on what would happen should the U.K. Government no longer fund LFT or PCR.*

Response

In relation to Q1A, the PCR system operating in Wales is a hybrid model that includes:

- testing using our own NHS Wales laboratories that is funded directly from the Welsh Government budget; and,
- an allocation of testing services under the UK Testing programme that involves using lighthouse laboratories that is funded directly by the UK Government.

In relation to Q1B, Wales is provided with a population allocation of LFT under the UK Testing programme funded and procured by the UK Government.

In relation to Q2, in the financial year ending March 2021, Public Health Wales and Welsh health boards and trusts were provided with £55.232m funding from Welsh Government to support COVID-19 testing.

In relation to Q3, Welsh Government does not hold this information. The requested information on tests conducted under the UK Testing programme is held by the UK Government and may be requested from the Department of Health and Social Care at the address below:

Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
United Kingdom

[Contact the Department of Health and Social Care | contactus.dh.gov.uk \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/contact-dhsc)

In relation to Q4:

- The COVID Pass went live on 11 October. A review of the coronavirus restrictions is undertaken every three weeks. The most recent review was completed on 28 October. On 29 October the First Minister announced that we intend to extend the use of the COVID Pass, making it a requirement for entrance to cinemas, theatres and concert halls from 15 November, subject to a debate and vote in the Senedd. [Written Statement: Review of the Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restriction\) \(No.5\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(29 October 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#)
- The four nations of the UK work collaboratively to provide the UK Testing programme. We do not expect the UK Government to cease funding LFT or PCR testing without prior consultation and a joint agreement between the four governments.

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor 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
- to 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

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
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,