



By email

request-661882-1a468077@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 02/05/rp/252

17 June 2020

Dear Peter Luke,

Re: FOI COVID-19 ELISA tests

Thank you for your request received on 04 May 2020 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) I can confirm that PHE does hold the information you have specified.

You asked:

Please can you provide the data that gives PHE confidence in the ELISA test for Covid-19 antibodies currently being used for the mass surveillance testing programme.

In particular, please provide sensitivity and specificity data, including samples numbers for both PCR positive samples and PCR negative samples.

In addition, please provide data relating to those samples, which come from patients who were diagnosed with severe Covid-19 (ie low po2 or requiring oxygen treatment or requiring ventilation) who are PCR positive, but, are not immuno-reactive as judged by the PHE anti-body assay.

PHE response:

PHE holds the information that you have specified. The information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is *reasonably accessible by other means*, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information. However for your convenience we include the following links below. As this is an evolving situation we advise you regularly check the latest information available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-laboratory-evaluations-of-serological-assays>

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We apologise for the delay in responding to your request. If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information team