

## Information Governance

Medical Directorate  
NHS Grampian  
Rosehill House  
Foresterhill Site  
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Aberdeen  
AB25 2ZG



BY EMAIL  
George Winter  
[request-659419-  
0b9d73df@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:0b9d73df@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date 12 June 2020  
Our Ref FOI/2020/226  
Enquiries to Information Governance Team  
Extension 51319  
Direct Line 01224 551319  
Email [nhsq.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsq.foi@nhs.net)

Dear Mr Winter

### **Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

I refer to your e-mail 16 April 2020, requesting:

*"In answer to my request of 3 April 2020 asking for information on the footage taken by the BBC on 27 March, NHS Grampian's response included this:*

*"Is (or was) COVID-19 testing undertaken in this laboratory? No, COVID testing was not undertaken in the section of the laboratory where the footage was filmed. However, COVID testing at the time of the footage was being carried out in a different section of this laboratory. "*

*My question is: In which section of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's virology laboratory was the footage filmed, please?"*

I can now respond as follows:

**In answer to my request of 3 April 2020 asking for information on the footage taken by the BBC on 27 March, NHS Grampian's response included this:**

**"Is (or was) COVID-19 testing undertaken in this laboratory? No, COVID testing was not undertaken in the section of the laboratory where the footage was filmed. However, COVID testing at the time of the footage was being carried out in a different section of this laboratory. "**

**My question is: In which section of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's virology laboratory was the footage filmed, please?**

COVID19 testing is done in 3 steps:

Step #1 = swabs taken from patients are prepared for molecular testing that includes deactivation of any virus present.

Step #2 = extraction of the virus genetic material (nucleic acid) from the deactivated sample

Step #3 = detection of the target pathogen (SARS-CoV2) by PCR using the extracted nucleic acid from Step#2. This provides a positive / negative COVID-19 result.

The footage was taken in the Virology/ Molecular Section of the Microbiology Department, however the specific laboratory in the footage is used to extract RNA from cellular material in patient samples as per Step #2 above.

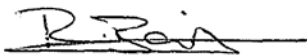
Testing for the detection of SARS-CoV2 by PCR as per Step #3, is performed in a separate clean room where the aim is to protect the samples from contamination from RNA / DNA in the environment or on laboratory staff.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Foresterhill House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZB or by email to [grampian@nhs.net](mailto:grampian@nhs.net)

Requests for appeal can be made by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's online service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal) or should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611.

Yours sincerely



**Roohi Bains**  
**Acting Information Governance Manager**  
**NHS Grampian**