

Corporate Administration

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Corporate HQ
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Campus
1055 Great Western Road
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Telephone: 0141 201 4444

Mr Derek Reid

SENT BY EMAIL TO:

request-773276-a3974c3d@whatdotheyknow.com

Date

9 August 2021

Your Ref

Our Ref

BRD / RG/ FOI 17122

Direct Line

Working remotely

Email

foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Mr Reid

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND REGULATIONS 2004
FOI Request 17122 PCR & Covid**

Thank you for your request received on 11 July 2021 for the provision of the following information:-
PCR & Covid

We are treating your request under our procedures for responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information that we are able to provide in response to your request is given below.

1. I would be obliged if you could tell me under the Freedom of Information act how many cycles are run as standard in the PCR test?

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is the largest NHS Board in Scotland, providing services to a core population of 1.2million, and specialist regional services to more than half the country's population. It also employs approximately 38,000 staff, which represents a quarter of the workforce in NHS Scotland

The Cycle Threshold, or CT value is the number of PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) cycles that it takes before the virus is first detected; the lower the CT value the higher the level of virus in the original sample.

Each manufacturer of the RT-PCR test will recommend a differing maximum amplification cycle number to determine presence of SARS CoV-2 when interpreting results.

The numbers of amplification cycles used within the PCR tests for diagnosing patients throughout the COVID 19 pandemic at NHSGGC hospitals are shown in Table 1:

Hospital	System	CT Value
Glasgow Royal Infirmary	Applied Biosystems, 7500 Real-Time PCR System	40
	Abbott Alinity M	40
	Roche Cobas 6800	45
	Seegene CFX96	45

	Cepheid GeneXpert	45
	Abbott M2000	40
	Roche Liat	45
QEUH	Roche Liat	45
	Hologic, Panther	n/a**
Gartnavel General Hub-West	Thermo Fisher Scientific Amplitude	40

Table 1: Amplification cycles in PCR tests for Covid, by hospital

**The Panther does not use CT values

- 2. How many deaths were due to Covid-19 alone and no other comorbidities that are listed on the death certificate?**
- 3. What is the average age of death from COVID-19 from March 2020 to current date?**

Please note that NHSGGC does not record information on all deaths, therefore under section 17 of FOISA I am required to notify you that this information is not held by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC). The information provided by National Records of Scotland (NRS) is the authoritative source of data on deaths in Scotland and within the NHSGGC health board area since not all deaths, including Covid-19 deaths, occur in hospital. Covid-19 deaths also occur in the community, in care homes, and in settings other than hospitals, therefore NHSGGC does not record information on all deaths.

Data on the number of deaths from Covid-19, both nationally in Scotland and within the NHSGGC health board area, are publicly available on the (NRS) website. These data are updated weekly. As this information is publicly available and can reasonably be accessed by you, the applicant, we are exempt from providing this in response to a request under section 1(1) of FOISA, as set out in section 25(1) of FOISA. However under the duty to provide reasonable advice and assistance as set out in section 15 of FOISA, we are providing a link to the relevant page of the NRS website as below:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

The data provided by NRS include breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death.

Deaths involving COVID-19 are defined as those where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause. Cause of death is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions 10th Revision (ICD-10). Figures include deaths where 'suspected' or 'probable' COVID-19 appears on the death certificate.

In addition, NRS has published information made available in response to requests for ad-hoc analysis related to COVID-19 deaths data.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths/deaths-involving-coronavirus-covid-19-in-scotland/related-statistics>

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 we are unable to pass your request on to a third party. We can however recommend that you contact National Records of Scotland (NRS) with a separate Freedom of Information request and they may have access to the information you request. Here is a link to the NRS site which has details about sending a Freedom of Information request to them:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/requesting-information>

I hope that this is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to request a review of this decision within 40 working days of receiving this response. The attached note describes our review procedure. Your request for review must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you wish us to carry out a review, please complete the form enclosed and return it to the Head of Corporate Governance and Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Corporate HQ, JB Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH or by email to foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

If following a review you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to ask for advice, assistance or to make a formal appeal in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the outcome of a review. The Commissioner can be contacted at: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS or at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

If following appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner you still remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law against the decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Should you require any clarification about this letter or the right to request a review please contact me at the details at the top of the first page of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Russell Greig

Russell Greig
Freedom of Information Officer

Standard Enclosures:
Request For Review Form
Procedure for review of decision notified