



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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By email

request-696388-be94514b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 05/10/rp/1476

29 October 2020

Dear Mrs. Sear,

Re: FOI COVID-19

Thank you for your request received on 05 October 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 provide proof that the virus has been isolated and purified enabling the tests used to identify the virus Sars-cov-2 and not just pick up any coronavirus.

PHE response:

PHE can confirm that it holds the information you have specified. However, 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. Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, we have provided a link to the following paper which shows evidence of culture of virus in the PHE reference lab at Colindale:

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.32.2001483>

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