

Date 7 October 2020]  
Our Ref 2020-000133  
Enquiries to [phs.foi@nhs.net](mailto:phs.foi@nhs.net)

Dear Athanasios Kandas

**Freedom of Information Reference: 2020-000133**

I refer to your request of 9 September 2020 under the above legislation for information about:

*All records in the possession, custody or control of Public Health Scotland, describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; liver cancer cells).*

*Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers \*instead\* to:*

- the culturing of something, or*
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or*
- the sequencing of something.*

*Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the PHS or that pertain to work done by the PHS. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the PHS has downloaded or printed.*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our records, I have established that under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Public Health Scotland (PHS) does not hold the information you requested.

PHS has not been involved in any studies where methods of isolation described have been performed. Such studies may have been performed in a number of Universities but PHS is not aware of any specific studies to be able to direct you to them for more information.

If you have any questions please contact me on [phs.foi@nhs.net](mailto:phs.foi@nhs.net).

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this correspondence, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt.

1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB

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Glasgow office: 5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QE

The review will be undertaken by a reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process. The reviewer can be contacted as follows:

The FOI Reviewer

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Public Health Scotland  
Gyle Square  
1 South Gyle Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9EB  
Email: [p hs.foi@p hs.scot](mailto:p hs.foi@p hs.scot)

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Bibby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vicki Bibby**  
Head of Strategy, Governance and Performance  
**Public Health Scotland**