



**By email**

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Our ref: 28/07/cs/904

25 August 2020

Dear Marc Horn,

**Re: Documents held showing SARS-COV2 has been isolated and Causes COVID-19**

Thank you for your email dated 28 July 2020. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does not hold the information you have specified.

***Your Request***

***Please provide a full, accurate and complete list of records held within your office, and / or under your authority, supporting the claim that the SARS-COV-2 virus causes the symptoms of the disease called COVID-19, including but not limited to isolation of SARS-COV-2 virus and its identification method as confirmation.***

***Please note isolation is used in the normally understood meaning of the word – the act of separating a thing from another. I am not referring to, and hence not requesting, isolation meaning the culture of something else or the performance of an amplification test (eg PCR test which only detect mRNA or DNA) or the sequencing of “something”.***

***If any records match the above description and are available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, and weblink or location where the public may access it).***

***Response***

Evidence that SARS-COV-2 causes the symptoms of COVID-19 is widely and publicly available.

Under section 16 of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. I have signposted you to publications that contain information on virus isolation:

[www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.32.2001483](http://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.32.2001483)

[www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2196-x](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2196-x)

[www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30154-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30154-9/fulltext).

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to 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](mailto: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,  
FOI Team