

Date 6 November 2020
Our Ref 2020-000158
Enquiries to phs.foi@phs.scot

Freedom of Information Reference: 2020-000158

I refer to your request of 9th October 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; lung cells from a lung cancer patient). This is not limited to records that were authored by Public Health Scotland or that pertain to work done by Public Health Scotland. The request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that Public Health Scotland 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 does not hold the information you requested.

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. 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
Public Health Scotland
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB
Email: PHS.FOI@phs.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. 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

Victoria A Bibby

Victoria Bibby
Head of Strategy, Governance and Performance
Public Health Scotland