

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/documents_held_showing_sars_cov2_2_incoming-1670059

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

[Athanasios Kandias](#) made this Freedom of Information request to [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#)

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⊖ Athanasios Kandias 12 October 2020

✓ Delivered

Dear Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency,

As per my recent FOI request to PHS, ref 2020-000133 and another FOI request to Public Health England ref 24/07/hf/872, both PHS and PHE do not hold evidence of the virus, isolated by a deceased patient and in fact, no confirmation of its existence in the UK, at least. Under the FOI act can you please provide:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, 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.

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[Isolation, Purification and Identification of SARS-COV-2](#)
Public Health England

[Documents held showing SARS-COV2 has been isolated](#)

- the sequencing of something.

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

Please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it.

Yours faithfully,
Athanasios Kandias

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⊖ MHRA Customer Services, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency 12 October 2020

Thank you for your email. This auto-response is to inform you that your email has been received and will be reviewed by our Customer Service Team shortly.

You can expect a reply from us within a few days for a straightforward request. Where a more detailed response or contribution from a specialist is required this is likely to take longer but we will inform you of this.

If your request is urgent, please call us on 020 3080 6000

Our opening hours are Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm (excluding UK Public Holidays)

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Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade,

Canary Wharf,

London

E14 4PU

[1][gov.uk/mhra](https://www.gov.uk/mhra)

[2]Stay connected

For information on how the Agency uses your personal data and your data protection rights, please see our three centres' Privacy Notices: [3]MHRA, [4]CPRD and [5]NIBSC.

References

Visible links

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisati...>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisati...>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio...>
4. <https://www.cprd.com/transparency-inform...>
5. https://www.nibsc.org/about_us/privacy_n...

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Report

⊖ MHRA Customer Services, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency 13 October 2020

Our Ref: FOI 20/404

Our Ref: FOI 20/404

Dear Athanasios Kandas,

RE: REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your enquiry which we received on 12 October 2020.

I confirm that your request is now being handled under the Freedom of Information Act and you should receive a reply within 20 working days from our date of receipt.

If you need to contact us again about this request, please quote the reference number above.

Kind Regards,

MHRA Customer Service Centre

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU
Telephone 020 3080 6000

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Link to this

Report

— MHRA Customer Services, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency 5 November 2020

Our ref: FOI 20/404

Our ref: FOI 20/404

Dear Athanasios Kandas,

Thank you for your email of 12 October 2020, in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000:

As per my recent FOI request to PHS, ref 2020-000133 and another FOI request to Public Health England ref 24/07/hf/872, both PHS and PHE do not hold evidence of the virus, isolated by a deceased patient and in fact, no confirmation of its existence in the UK, at least. Under the FOI act can you please provide:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased (we assume this is meant to say deceased as in sentence above) 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).

Response: There are no divisions in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency working on isolation of viruses directly from patients, and we therefore hold no records describing this activity.

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.

• 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 MHRA or that pertain to work done by the MHRA. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the MHRA has downloaded or printed.

Response: this request is for information that is already in the public domain and therefore exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act.

Please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it.

If you have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date you receive this response and addressed to: [1][MHRA request email]

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

MHRA Customer Services