

Date 10 September 2021
Our Ref 2021-000848
Enquiries to phs.foi@phs.scot

Dear Richard Anthony

Freedom of Information Reference: 2021-000848

Thank you for your request for information dated 17 August 2021

Following a search of our records I write to advise you of the following responses to your questions.

“May I please know if Public Health Scotland has any actual material samples of purified SarsCoV2 virus and all related variants? I do not mean an in silico computer generated genome sequence. I mean actual material samples of purified viruses.”

Response

Public Health Scotland (PHS) does not hold the information you requested. This is a formal notice that Section 17(1) - Information not held applies to your request, under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002).

Additional Information

I can advise that it is not the remit of Public Health Scotland to undertake viral culture. Information is publicly available that the SARS-CoV-2 has been isolated and can be accessed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website I include a web link [here](#).

“If you do have these samples can you please tell me, what isolation and purification steps were taken to achieve this?”

Response

Public Health Scotland (PHS) does not hold the information you requested. This is a formal notice that Section 17(1) - Information not held applies to your request, under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002).

Additional Information

It is not the remit of PHS to undertake viral culture. However information on the culture process of SARS CoV-2 is available to Public Health Scotland. Note that this is published by labs who carry out the process. I include the following web links

- [COVID-19 research repository](#)
- [WHO global research on Coronavirus](#)

“If you do not have these do you know of any laboratories who do have them here in Scotland.”

Response

Public Health Scotland does not hold the information you requested. This is a formal notice that Section 17(1) - Information not held applies to your request, under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002).

Additional Information

I can advise that that your request would be more appropriately addressed to University of Glasgow, you can contact them via foi@gla.ac.uk.

Scottish Information Commissioner’s website:

For information I include a link to the Regulator’s [website](#).

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

Scott Heald
Director of Data Driven Innovation
Public Health Scotland