



Government
Office for Science

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(for those with hearing impairment)

Date: 25/01/2022

Ref no: **GOS-COV-010122-0296**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 04/01/2022 where you requested the following information:

“Pre-Experimental Details:

The Cell Nutrient Solution (storage medium) quantity and dilution that the cell lines are stored in for preparation of the experiment

Cell Culture - Experimental Group Details:

The quantity of material from (allegedly infected) nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab specimens that was added to the cell culture experimental group (per well)

Antibiotics Quantities for the cell culture experimental group (per well)

Antifungals Quantities for the cell culture experimental group (per well)

Fetal Bovine Serum Quantities and dilution for the cell culture experimental group (per well)

The quantity and dilution of the Cell Nutrient Solution (DMEM) used in the experimental group (per well)

The number of wells used in the experimental Group

The number of wells in the experimental group that experienced CPE

Type and quantity of UTM/VTM used in the experimental group (used in the storage of swab specimens from the patient diagnosed with "the virus" - per swab)

Any additional chemicals or components added to the experimental group, with quantities (per well)

Cell Culture - "Mock Infected" / Control Group

Details:

The quantity of material from uninfected nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab specimens that was added to the cell culture control group (per well)

Antibiotics Quantities for the cell culture control group (per well)

Antifungals Quantities for the cell culture control group (per well)

Fetal Bovine Serum Quantities and dilution for the cell culture control group (per well)

The quantity and dilution of the Cell Nutrient Solution (DMEM) used in the control group (per well)

The number of wells used in the control Group

The number of wells in the control group that experienced CPE

Type and quantity of UTM/VTM used in the control group (used in the storage of control swab specimens from a patient considered free of "the virus" - per swab)

Any additional chemicals or components added to the control group, with quantities (per well)

"Whole Genome" Sequencing - Purity and Control Details:

The degree of purity of the "virus" sample used in the sequencing experiment.

All details of the control group that was used when comparing the results of sequencing:

the total nucleic acid extracted from the "viral lysate" (from the experimental group), versus

the total nucleic acid extracted from the non-viral lysate (from the control group).

In summary, please provide all records that include any additional details of the experimental and/or control groups that were used when "isolating and sequencing the virus"

Response

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and is based on information held.

Under the Act, we are required under section 1(1)(a) to confirm or deny whether the information is held.

I can confirm we do not hold the information you request. Please see further information.

Further Information

To assist with your request, we have included the information and link below. It is provided at our discretion and not under the Act.

The Freedom of Information Act ensures access to information held by public authorities.

We do not hold the information that you are requesting, this does not mean the information does not exist. The evidence for the existence and isolation of SARS-CoV-2 is extensive, readily available and accessible using any search engine.

In addition, our colleagues at what was Public Health England (PHE; now the UK Health Security Agency, UKHSA) have grown the virus, SARS-CoV-2 and several strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus have been deposited to the European Virus Archive. The virus culture method has been published in the following peer-reviewed paper:

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.32.2001483>

Appeals procedure

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 of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

Government Office for Science Internal Reviews
Government Office for Science
10 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0NN
Email: foi.reviews@go-science.gov.uk

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

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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