

**Derbyshire County Council
Adult Social Care and Health
County Hall
MATLOCK
DE4 3AG**

Private and Confidential

Via email

VONofUCT@pm.me

Telephone 01629 532086/532058
Ask for Information Governance Team
Email ASCH.AdultCare.FOI@derbyshire.gov.uk
Our ref FOI-969
Your ref FOI-969
Date 12 January 2022

Dear Von Hobbs,

RE: FOI-969 MERS/ Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Thank you for your information request dated 21/10/21. I can confirm that we do not hold the requested information. The request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your Request:

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports and/or records in the possession, custody or control of the addressed body corporate describing the purification (i.e. via filtration and ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of " MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) "virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased man, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka Vero cells; fetal bovine serum, liver cancer cells, lung cells from a lung cancer patient) and also studies and/or reports and/or records in the possession, custody or control of the addressed body corporate and proving a causation between the "virus" and the suspected infectious disease.

Please note that I am using "purification" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. Please note that I am not requesting records/studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" (separate the alleged "virus" from everything thing else in the patient sample) and instead:-

- cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance, and/or**
- performed an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test) on the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture, or on genetic material from any unpurified substance, and/or**
- fabricated a genome based on PCR-detected sequences in the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture or from any unpurified substance, and/or**

□ **produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things in a cell culture.**

The response to your request is as follows:

Under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Derbyshire County Council do not hold information of the description specified in your request.

However, as part of our duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, please note that this information is publicly available at UKHSA who can be contacted by emailing InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk.

I hope this now deals with your request for information. However should you wish the outcome to be reviewed, please follow the procedure as set out below;

Stage 1:

In the first instance, please send in your comments, and wherever possible, a copy of your request and the covering letter enclosing the information or refusing your request to:

Access to Information Solicitor
Legal Services
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
DE4 3AG
Email: access.2info@derbyshire.gov.uk

Please ensure that correspondence is marked as "Request for a review of my Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations request", and bears any case references you have been given.

Stage 2:

After completing the above procedure, if you wish to challenge the decision further, then you have a right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel. 0303 123 1113/ Fax: 01625 524510

ICO Weblink: <http://www.ico.org.uk/complaints.aspx>

Yours Sincerely,

Information Governance Team