



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ATISN 15028

22 April 2021

Dear

### **ATISN 15028– Cycles on PCR Tests for SARS-CoV-2 in Wales**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 24 March 2021. I have interpreted your request as follows:

*In the document 'Testing for COVID-19 using the rt-PCR test' published by the Welsh Parliament Research Service, 15 December 2020 it was stated that PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2 were run at 45 cycles during 2020.*

- 1. Who directed that a cycle number of 45 be used and what rationale was provided for this being the appropriate cycle number?*
- 2. What this the current cycle number being used for PCR tests in Wales?*

### **Our response:**

Tests are carried out in either Public Health Wales (PHW) laboratories or by Lighthouse laboratories. Information about lab processes including amplification cycles will be held by PHW or the Department for Health and Social Care. Should you wish to submit a Freedom of Information request to these organisations, you can do so through the following channels:

#### **Public Health Wales**

<https://phw.nhs.wales/use-of-site/contact-us/freedom-of-information/>

#### **Department for Health and Social Care**

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

### **Next Steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,