



ATISN 15401

27 August 2021

Dear ,

**ATISN 15401 – Covid Testing**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 8 August 2021. You have requested information regarding covid risk assessments. I have interpreted your request as follows:

1. *Regarding CoVID-19 testing in Wales: When someone undergoes a PCR test in Wales and it is sent off for analysis, which companies/laboratories perform the tests?*
2. *Regarding PCR tests, at how many cycles are the tests run?*
3. *Regarding Deaths in Wales, provide the number of cremations and the number of burials that occurred for the years 2015 to 2020+ (or last reported period).*
4. *Regarding post mortals in Wales, can you please provide information on any Welsh Government policies to perform post mortem investigations on people who have died having received two doses of the CoVID-19 gene therapy (vaccines)*

**Our response:**

1-2. PCR tests in Wales will either go to the NHS Wales laboratories managed by Public Health Wales or the UK lighthouse laboratory network that is managed by the UK Government Department for Health and Social Care on behalf of the four nations. Samples taken at regional and local testing sites go to lighthouse laboratories. Information on the lighthouse laboratory network and how samples are tested is available on the attached link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-test-and-trace-how-we-test-your-samples/nhs-test-and-trace-how-we-test-your-samples>

3. Deaths in Wales. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. Statistics on deaths to Welsh residents are published by the [Office for National Statistics](#), we are not aware of them having information on burials and cremations.

4. Policies relating to post mortems in Wales are a non-devolved responsibility. Information should be sought from the UK Government's Ministry of Justice or Chief Coroner's Office:

### **Ministry of Justice**

Disclosure team  
Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
United Kingdom

Email : [data.access@justice.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gov.uk)

Or via their online form [How to make a freedom of information \(FOI\) request - GOV.UK](#)  
([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

### **Chief Coroner's Office**

Chief Coroner's Office,  
11th Floor Thomas More,  
Royal Courts of Justice,  
Strand,  
London,  
WC2A 2LL.

Email: [chiefcoronersoffice@judiciary.uk](mailto:chiefcoronersoffice@judiciary.uk)

### **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,