

Reference:	FOI.19362 & 19374.26
Subject:	Infection and virus testing
Date of Request:	20 and 22 January 2026

Requested:

FOI.19362

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. The total number of Influenza A/B, COVID-19, and RSV diagnostic tests performed by your Trust during the calendar years of 2024 and 2025, broken down by test type.
 - b. If available, please indicate the type of tests used (e.g., rapid antigen, rapid molecular, RT-PCR).
 - c. Any associated data on positivity rates for these tests, if recorded.

FOI.19374

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. The total number of diagnostic tests performed for Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) during the calendar years of 2024 and 2025, broken down by test type.
 - b. If available, please indicate the type of tests used (e.g., rapid antigen, rapid molecular, culture).
 - c. Any associated data on positivity rates for these tests, if recorded.

Clarification:

I am requesting the test used to establish whether an isolate is Group A Strep — not the specimen types received.

So please proceed with providing the information on the diagnostic test/method used to confirm a Group A Strep isolate.'

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all the information requested. The laboratories in Bronglais General Hospital, Glangwili General Hospital and Prince Philip Hospital are provided by Public Health Wales (PHW), who have direct management of the laboratories.

We therefore recommend that you redirect your request for the hospitals mentioned above to the Freedom of Information Team in Public Health Wales (PHW), who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details for PHW are as follows:-

Foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Office, Public Health Wales, Floor 3, 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

The UHB is unable to provide you with all the information requested for its laboratory in Withybush General Hospital (WGH), as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To provide you with the data requested for question 1c of FOI.19362 and 1c of FOI.19374, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all diagnostic tests performed for the requested period, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that for question 1c of FOI.19362, two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-five (2,755) diagnostic tests were undertaken in the 2025 calendar year alone. It is estimated that a manual search of these records only would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of digital records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

2,755 @ 5 minutes per record = 228 hours and 40 minutes
228 hours and 40 minutes @ £25 per hour = £5,716.75

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA, which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of all diagnostic tests to be undertaken to identify information that may fulfil your request.

The UHB therefore, provides the accessible information it holds for its laboratory in WGH for both requests below.

FOI.19362

1a. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of diagnostic tests performed, for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years.

Calendar year	Number
2024	2,755
2025	3,624

1b. The UHB confirms that the test for COVID-19, Influenza A and B, and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests, all four (4) viruses are tested for on all requests.

1c. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA applied.

FOI.19374

1a. The UHB does not hold the information requested as it does not record the number of Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) tests performed. However, the UHB can confirm based on the number of testing kits ordered per year, approximately one thousand, five hundred (1,500) Strep A tests are performed each year.

1b. The UHB confirms that the test used is the Strep grouping kit.

1c. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA applied.