

Reference:	FOI.20201.26
Subject:	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests
Date of Request:	15 April 2026

Requested:

I am making a Freedom of Information Request, pertaining to information surrounding Covid-19, and in particular the PCR Tests conducted, or to put it a different way the tests conducted using the PCR i.e. the swabs taken either by inserting a swab up the nasal passage, or a swab taken from the back of the throat.

I would like to know what exactly, that is every link in the chain, every test that was conducted, who exactly the swabs were given to, what tests were conducted by them and any other third parties, and whether the information has been saved on a database somewhere, and what information has been saved on third party database/s.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all of 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.

Additionally, the UHB does not hold the information relating to data storage as the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) is hosted by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW). We therefore recommend that you re-direct this part of your request to the Freedom of Information (Foi) Team in DHCW, who should be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details are as follows:

DHCW.FOI@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively in writing to: Digital Health and Care Wales, Ty Glan-yr-Afon, 21 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF11 9AD.

However, the UHB provides the information it holds relating to COVID-19 PCR testing for its laboratory in Worthybush General Hospital (WGH) below.

The UHB provides copies of the Microbiology laboratory procedures for the three (3) platforms used to test throat swabs for respiratory pathogens, at Attachments 1 to 3.

Additionally, the UHB provides a summary of the process below:

Swab taken → Transported to laboratory → Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) extraction → Reverse Transcription (RT) PCR analysis → Result validated → Result issued → Public Health action.