

Date: 23/12/2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/015513 – Covid

Please provide details of the following:

1. Confirmation that all reported cases of SARS-COV2 in your Trust have been diagnosed and confirmed by PCR test;
2. If not with a PCR test, provide details of what method was employed to confirm the presence of SARS-COV2;
3. Details of the laboratories performing the PCR tests producing the confirmation of SARS-COV2 on behalf of your Trust;
4. Details of the Ct thresholds currently employed in the PCR tests performed by the labs at 3.;
5. Details of the Ct thresholds used to confirm all reported cases of SARS-COV2 in your Trust between 01/01/2020 and 18/12/2020;
6. Details of the manufacturers of the PCR tests used to confirm the presence of SARS-COV2 in your Trust;
7. In the document "Understanding cycle threshold (Ct) in SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR" published on the UK government website, page 7 includes the statement "Some commercial RT-PCR techniques are closed 'black box' systems whereby the operator cannot observe the reaction in real-time and the result is interpreted by software into a qualitative non-interrogatable positive or negative result." Please confirm which manufacturers have been engaged that employ such a 'black box' method, which labs have used such a manufacturer, and which results confirming the presence of SARS-COV2 in the UK have been based on such techniques;
8. Where such results have been produced using the 'black box' method, please describe what further action was taken to confirm the results produced by the 'black box' method.

This request will need to be sent to Black Country Pathology Services.

The Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) integrate pathology services at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), with Sandwell West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGH) and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT). The BCPS will be hosted by RWT on behalf of the partnership.

Your request will need to be forwarded to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust rwh-tr.FOI@nhs.net