

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-468

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 14th November 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 17th October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding PCR testing

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Can you please give the following re Pcr testing

1 The primer sequence to detect Sars Cov2 virus

2 The primer sequence to detect Influenza A

3 The primer sequence to detect Influenza B

4 The primer sequence to detect Rhinovirus

5 The primer sequence to detect Adenovirus

A1 See below: We utilise commercial PCR assays to detect the respiratory virus targets listed. The companies provide the gene targets however they do not specify the primer sequence assuming that these are commercially sensitive. The table below includes the assays utilised by UHNM virology department and indicates the genes targeted by each assay.

| Assay | SARS | Flu A | Flu B | RSV | Adenovirus | Rhinovirus |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Cepheid GeneXpert | Nucleocapsid (N) Envelope (E) RdRP | Influenza A matrix Basic polymerase (PB2) Influenza A acidic protein (PA) | Influenza B matrix Non-structural protein (NS) | RSV A and RSV B Nucleocapsid | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Roche Liat | ORF 1 a/b Nucleocapsid (N) | Influenza A matrix | Non-structural protein (NS) | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Biomerieux Film Array RP2 plus | Spike protein (S) Membrane protein (M) | FluA-pan-1 and FluA- pan-2 and three subtyping assays directed at the hemagglutinin gene (FluA-H1-2, FluA-H1- 2009, and FluA-H3). | Not specified | RSV A and RSV B Nucleocapsid | Adeno2, Adeno3, Adeno6, Adeno7.1 and Adeno8 | Not specified |

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records