

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 21 December 2020.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

1. Confirmation that all reported cases of SARS-COV2 in your Trust have been diagnosed and confirmed by PCR test;

Yes, using PCR Molecular testing

2. If not with a PCR test, provide details of what method was employed to confirm the presence of SARS-COV2;

N/A

3. Details of the laboratories performing the PCR tests producing the confirmation of SARS-COV2 on behalf of your Trust;

Microbiology Dept, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

4. Details of the Ct thresholds currently employed in the PCR tests performed by the labs at 3.

Samba II >31, Biofire & Cepheid >25

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;

As above.

6. Details of the manufacturers of the PCR tests used to confirm the presence of SARS-COV2 in your Trust.

MKUH - Cepheid GeneXpert, Biomerieux Biofire, DRW Samba. Oxford - Microbiology lab, Cepheid COVID, BioFire COVID and BioFire RP2.1 with COVID, Altona RealStar SARS-CoV-2, Abbott M2000 COVID, Thermo Fisher TaqPath COVID-19

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.

Biofire Filmarray Covid & PR 2.1

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.

N/A

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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