

← Marc Horn 25 July 2020

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Dear House of Lords,

Please provide a full, accurate and complete list of records held within your office, and or under your authority, describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly taken from a symptomatic patient of COVID-19 where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (not limited but by way of example monkey kidney cells, aka vero cells, liver cancer cells) thereby eliminating contamination as a possible alternative source of sampling.

Please note isolation is used in the normally understood meaning of the word – the act of separating a thing from another. I am not referring, and hence not requesting, to isolation meaning the culture of something else, the performance of an amplification test (eg PCR test which only detect mRNA or DNA) or the sequencing of "something".

If any records match the above description and are available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, and weblink or location where the public may access it).

I remind you full, accurate and complete disclosure is required.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Horn

**1 Attachment**



FOI 3462 Response.pdf

78K [Download](#) [View as HTML](#)

Dear Mr Horn,

Please find attached our response to your request (copied below) to the House of Lords Administration.

You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the House of Lords to conduct an internal review. This should be addressed to [1][\[email address\]](#) and explain clearly the nature of your complaint in terms of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Arrangements will be made for someone who has not been involved in dealing with your request to conduct an internal review within 20 working days.

You should note that we will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date our response was sent. Any such request received after this time will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

If, following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the House's treatment of your request for information you may then take your complaint to the Information Commissioner using the contact details available [2][here](#).

Please note that due to the Covid-19 pandemic our office is temporarily closed, and the FOI team are currently unable to receive correspondence sent by post.

The Information Commissioner's Office has also advised that their office is closed for the foreseeable future and that they are currently unable to receive correspondence by post.

Yours sincerely,

Kimberley Swift

Information Compliance Team

House of Lords

## List of records describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus

### Request:

Please provide a full, accurate and complete list of records held within your office, and or under your authority, describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly taken from a symptomatic patient of COVID-19 where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (not limited but by way of example monkey kidney cells, aka vero cells, liver cancer cells) thereby eliminating contamination as a possible alternative source of sampling.

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### Response:

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOIA”) provides a right of access, subject to specified exemptions, to recorded information held by a public authority. In the case of the House of Lords, the rights of access apply to recorded information held by the House of Lords Administration.

The House Administration does not hold any information matching the description set out in your request.

Outside the scope of your request, you may be interested in the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee’s current inquiry into the science of COVID-19. Information relating to the inquiry, including oral and written evidence that has been submitted to the Committee, is published on our website here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/293/the-science-of-covid19/>