



UK Health
Security
Agency

By email:

Our ref: 06/01/25/JS/587

18 February 2025

Dear James

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request received on 6 January 2025 addressed to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Request

May I please request the following:

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports that the UK Health Security Agency, and also anywhere in the world, describing the purification of a “virus” (including any alleged variants) directly from a sample taken from a diseased host, human or animal, where the sample was not first combined with any other source of chemicals or genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka Vero cells; fetal bovine serum, Dulbecco’s medium, etc.)

***Clarification of Requested Records:
Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected “virus” and instead:***

- . cultured something, and/or***
- . performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or***
- . fabricated a “genome” from millions of sequences (allegedly) detected in an impure substance, and/or***
- . produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.***

I am already aware that according to virus theory a “virus” requires host cells in order to replicate, and am not requesting records that describe replication of a “virus” without host cells. Nor am I requesting records that describe a strict fulfillment of Koch’s Postulates, or records that describe a suspected “virus” floating in a vacuum.

I simply request records that describe purification (separation of the alleged virus from everything else in the human or animal sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

Also, any studies/reports where experiments were carried out to naturally transmit purified virions to healthy humans or animals and the results of those experiments showing the full methods used.

Please note that my request includes any study/report matching the above description, authored by anyone, anywhere.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available in the public domain, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s) date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

Response:

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that UKHSA does not hold the information you have specified. Viruses are not independent living entities and they need a host organism to be able to grow. UKHSA does not hold records or publications where a virus was isolated in the conditions described in your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act, a public authority has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Further information on virus isolation can be found using internet search engines. This includes the strictly controlled “COVID-19 human challenge” study, where healthy, young adult volunteers are inoculated with live SARS-CoV-2 virus to cause disease. Please see the links below for further information:

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01780-9>

[COVID-19 human challenge study reveals detailed insights into infection | ImperialNews | Imperial College London](#)

[Human challenge trial launches to study immune response to COVID-19 | University of Oxford](#)

<https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/55062331>

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to the Information Rights Team in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us by emailing InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) if a query cannot be resolved through the UKHSA internal review procedure.

The ICO can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,
Information Rights Team