



Australian Government

Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration

TRIM Ref: D21-2762875

Mr Andrew Stevens

By email: foi+request-7385-038307b4@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Stevens

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI 2443
Notice of Decision

I refer to your request dated 4 June 2021 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following documents:

"I am requesting information about how many cycles the PCR tests as of Friday 4th of June are currently set at in Australia regarding covid 19 testing."

Decision Maker

I am the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) officer authorised to make this decision under section 23 of the FOI Act. What follows is my decision under the FOI Act.

Decision

Unfortunately, I am unable to continue to process your request the documents you have requested do not exist. Therefore, I am notifying you of my decision to refuse your request for access under section 24A of the FOI Act.

Reasons for Decision

Section 24A of the FOI Act states that requests may be refused if all reasonable steps have been taken to find a document, and it is evident that the document does not exist.

The relevant electronic databases, files and corporate file lists in the TGA have been searched for the documents you have requested. Following these searches, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents requested, and I confirm that the documents you have requested do not exist.

However, I am able to offer you the following links to information relating to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) in infected individuals:

- **Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN) guidance on nucleic acid test result interpretation for SARS-CoV-2**
www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/phln-guidance-on-nucleic-acid-test-result-interpretation-for-sars-cov-2
This guidance document provides an overview of diagnostic testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

- **COVID-19 testing in Australia - information for health professionals**
www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-testing-australia-information-health-professionals
This page provides health professionals information about the tests for detecting the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 virus) in Australia.

Other resources explaining PCR testing for COVID-19 can be found on publically available websites, such as the article “**COVID-19 testing – what’s happening now and new developments**” at the Lab Tests Online-Au website below:
www.labtestsonline.org.au/learning/index-of-conditions/covid-19/learn-more-about-covid-19.

For scientific articles on COVID-19 PCR tests that are published in reputable journals and are available in the public domain, you may wish to search the National Library of Medicine website, National Center for Biotechnology Information at
pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Review and Complaint Rights

If you are not satisfied with this decision, you can either seek internal review or apply to the OAIC for review of the decision. Further information can be found on the OAIC website at the following link: www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact the FOI Team on (02) 6289 4630.

Yours sincerely

Authorised and electronically signed by

Meryl Clarke
Assistant Secretary
Medical Devices Authorisation Branch
Therapeutic Goods Administration
23 June 2021