



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

**By email**

[request-1018844-61e16034@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1018844-61e16034@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: 26/08/23/LD/376

25 September 2023

Dear John Lubbock,

**Re: Freedom of Information request - Contract with BGI Genomics for Covid testing**

Thank you for your request received on 26 August 2023 addressed to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that UKHSA does hold the information you have specified.

***Request***

***Dear UK Health Security Agency,***

***Further to my previous Fol request to the DHSC about a contract for Covid testing with the genomics company BGI Genomics, I was told to address this Fol to the HSA instead. You can see the previous Fol request here:***

***<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/contract-with-bgi-genomics-for-covid-testing-2387618>***

***As they told me to direct the Fol to you, I am asking for the same information:***

***I am writing to request more information about the DHSC contract with BGI Genomics for Covid testing in 2021:***

***<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov/>***

***I would like to know:***

- 1) Where was this testing carried out? Was it in BGI's laboratory at Queen Mary University of London?***
- 2) Approximately how many samples were tested as part of this contract?***
- 3) Were samples destroyed after testing, or were BGI Genomics allowed to keep samples after testing?***

***Response***

- 1) Where was this testing carried out? Was it in BGI's laboratory at Queen Mary University of London?**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, UKHSA can confirm that it holds the information you requested.

Samples were processed at the Queen Mary Innovation Centre, 42 New Road, London, E1 2AX.

**2) Approximately how many samples were tested as part of this contract?**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, UKHSA can confirm that it holds the information you requested.

There were 3.4k samples processed by BGI under their contract with UKHSA.

**3) Were samples destroyed after testing, or were BGI Genomics allowed to keep samples after testing?**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, UKHSA can confirm that it holds information relevant to your request.

BGI were contractually obligated to destroy all samples and delivery media within one week after tests results had been generated.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk) or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,  
Information Rights Team