

11 June 2021

Number of Cycles Used in PCR Tests for Testing of Covid-19 by Belfast Trust

I was wondering if I could request the following information - the number of cycles that have been used in the PCR tests for testing of COVID-19 by the Belfast trust, during each month, for the last 18 months if possible.

Response:

There are many assays and platforms in use in Belfast Trust for molecular testing of SARS CoV2. The total number of PCR cycles for each of those assays is set by manufacturers and there is no deviation from that by Belfast Trust. Standard PCRs that mostly employ Taqman chemistry, including SARS CoV2 assays, are either 40 or 45 cycles of PCR.