

## **Covid-19 Laboratory isolation**

**I would like to make a freedom of information request for the records showing COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) has been isolated in a lab in Northern Ireland.**

Health and Social Care NHS Laboratories do not use viral cell culture for diagnostics for SARS CoV2. It requires specialist facilities and the turnaround time is too long to be of clinical use. The virus has also been isolated in Public Health England laboratories by cell culture. There is also publically available publications of SARS CoV2 isolation work in NI academic institutions, link to one provided below:

[Collaboration Between Host and Viral Factors Shape SARS-CoV-2 Evolution | bioRxiv](#)