



FOI REF: 21/334

06th July 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

1. The Cycle threshold (Ct) used by your organisation since 01 March 2020. for each of the Government Pillar classifications.

The Viasure assays we use have a manufacturer's defined cut-off of a Ct value \leq 40 cycles for a SARS-CoV-2 target. For a negative result (i.e. one where there is no detection of a SARS-CoV-2 target) the internal control has a manufacturer's defined cut off of a Ct value \leq 35 cycles. The Cepheid GeneXpert assay detection Ct value cut-offs are defined by the proprietary software and are not alterable; interpretation is made by the software.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust provides Pillar 1 (NHS) services only.

2. Any changes made to the Ct during this period and when any such changes were made.

The Viasure assays we use have a manufacturer's defined cut-off of a Ct value \leq 40 cycles for a SARS-CoV-2 target. For a negative result (i.e. one where there is no detection of a SARS-CoV-2 target) the internal control has a manufacturer's defined cut off of a Ct value \leq 35 cycles. The Cepheid GeneXpert assay detection Ct value cut-offs are defined by the proprietary software and are not alterable; interpretation is made by the software.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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