[Greens reveal coronavirus testing postcode lottery](#)

3 August 2020

- **Data shows Cardiff test results take on average up to 34 hours longer than Milton Keynes**
- **Freedom of Information request shows worrying disparity across country, and gaps in the Department for Health's information**
- **Jenny Jones: "Our testing system should not be a complete postcode lottery"**

People taking coronavirus tests face a worrying postcode lottery in the time it takes to get results, with some parts of the country waiting on average up to 34 hours longer than others, the Green Party can reveal.

Data obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request has revealed that the longest delay was in Cardiff where people had to wait an average of 45 hours. [1]

The second longest delay was in Wembley, London, where people waited an average of 33 hours, and Lincoln had the third longest wait with 24 hours.

Meanwhile, those with the shortest wait were Milton Keynes, Glasgow and Llandudno with average times of 11, 12 and 13 hours respectively.

The data shows four of the testing sites, including the Nightingale Excel Walk In, are taking on average longer than the target set by Boris Johnson of 24 hours. [2]

Green Party peer Jenny Jones said:

"Our testing system should not be a complete postcode lottery with over a full day's difference in waiting time for results between some regional testing centers.

"We need Johnson to meet his commitment for all tests to be returned well under 24 hours, and we must level up all testing sites to the highest possible standards of efficiency."

The FOI request also revealed that the Department of Health had no records on how many results of tests are unsuccessfully returned to those who took the tests.

Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter said:

"At a time when lockdown measures have been significantly relaxed across Wales, the news that the average time taken to receive Covid- 19 test results in Cardiff is forty five hours is a deeply worrying failure on the part of

Public Health Wales.

"This unacceptable delay is endangering public health and reducing the efficiency of any attempts at a meaningful Test, Track and Isolate strategy."

Caroline Russell, Green Party London Assembly member, said:

"As we are being encouraged back to city centres and to reopen more parts of the economy, it's worrying to hear there are such disparities in the time taken to return test results.

"Every hour counts as we try to stay on top of the virus and contact the people who have been in touch with confirmed cases so they can isolate to keep others safe.

"It's not fair to affected communities if the time taken to get test results is letting down the track and trace system."

ENDS

Notes

1

The data provided was for the period 6 July 2020 to 12 July 2020 inclusive. It refers to the median hours from the time of test to the time of result communicated.

By RTS Site

ACF Code	Site Name	Median Hours
DFW	RTS – Cardiff City Football Club	45.13
WEM	RTS – Wembley	33.09
LNC	RTS – Lincoln	24.63
NGE	RTS – Nightingale Excel Walk-in	24.09
LEE	RTS – Leeds	23.31
LEI	RTS – Leicester	22.66
MDE	RTS – Birmingham Smethwick	22.24
STK	RTS – Stoke	22.13
NTM	RTS – Nottingham	22.09
HUL	RTS – Hull	22.03
DEE	RTS – Deeside	21.93
BRM	RTS – Birmingham Edgbaston	21.57
YOR	RTS – York	21.52
STA	RTS – Stafford	21.50
BRA	RTS – Bradford	21.36
TEL	RTS – Telford	21.26
IOW	RTS – Isle of Wight	21.08
DNE	RTS – Doncaster Airport, Sheffield	20.97
SHF	RTS – Sheffield	20.94

NOT	RTS — Nottingham Motorpoint		20.91
WRE	RTS — Worcester		20.76
COV	RTS — Coventry		20.75
PRE	RTS — Preston College		20.43
BLA	RTS — Blackburn		19.64
RMA	RTS — Ramsgate		19.32
PYE	RTS — Plymouth		19.27
SAL	RTS — Salisbury		19.12
CPR	RTS — Bournemouth		19.09
DCR	RTS — Derry City Rugby Club, Londonderry	18.98
GLO	RTS — Gloucester		18.97
BLE	RTS — Belfast Odyssey Arena		18.95
ENN	RTS — Enniskillen		18.84
WOB	RTS — Abercynon		18.83
EXE	RTS — Exeter		18.81
TAU	RTS — Taunton		18.66
NEW	RTS — Newbury		18.63
TIP	RTS — Portsmouth		18.59
POR	RTS — Portadown		18.56
EBV	RTS — Ebbw Vale		18.34
BRE	RTS — Bristol Airport		18.24
SWI	RTS — Swindon		17.94
HYE	RTS — Haydock Race Course		17.90
GWE	RTS — Gatwick Airport		17.22
ABE	RTS — Aberdeen Airport		17.20
MCM	RTS — Manchester Airport		17.05
IVE	RTS — Inverness		16.92
HEA	RTS — Heathrow		16.82
SLO	RTS — Slough		16.74
LIV	RTS — Liverpool Airport		16.41
LVE	RTS — Edmonton Lee Valley		16.33
MES	RTS — Manchester Etihad Stadium		16.27
PRS	RTS — Prestwick		16.22
AFE	RTS — Ashford		16.12
GUD	RTS — Guildford		16.10
PBO	RTS — Peterborough		15.99
PFK	RTS — Penrith		15.98
PER	RTS — Perth		15.88
CAM	RTS — Cambridge		15.87
EBB	RTS — Ebbsfleet		15.79
NWE	RTS — Newcastle Great Park & Ride		15.74
CHE	RTS — Chessington		15.70
NRW	RTS — Norwich		15.48
SAE	RTS — Stansted Airport		15.33

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OXP       RTS — Oxford Parkway                    15.26
TWE       RTS — Twickenham Stadium                15.14
BGE       RTS — Brighton                          15.06
GRE       RTS — Greenwich                         14.66
IWE       RTS — Ipswich                           14.54
EDE       RTS — Edinburgh Airport                 14.22
TPR       RTS — Oxford                            14.09
WEL       RTS — Welwyn Garden City                14.07
DWR       RTS — Llandudno Coach Park              13.58
GLM       RTS — Glasgow Airport                   12.59
MKE       RTS — Milton Keynes                     11.31
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2

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/boris-johnson-covid-tests-24-hours-by-end-of-june_uk_5ed76617c5b6a209e0b9dc16

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