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DH case ref: 401847R

25 June 2009

Ms D. Speers

request-9551-fdeb8b4a@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Speers

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): REQUEST FOR INTERNAL REVIEW DH
CASE REF: 401847R**

Thank you for your email dated 18 May in which you requested an Internal review of your previous correspondence. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Your email dated 21 April set out:

"It is the responsibility of NHS organisations to maintain this information and the Department does not routinely contact NHS organisations to investigate the accuracy of this information. Therefore the results cannot be relied upon as an accurate answer to your questions."

The Department of Health responded on 18 May as follows:

The Department of Health undertakes a validation process for information that is published or routinely made available to the public, such as the redundancy information published in the Quarter, as laid out in my email of 20 April (our ref: [DE00000399627](#)).

The Department does not validate data that will not be routinely made available to the public because this would place an unnecessary and costly burden on NHS organisations and the Department. This includes data on 'internal promotions'.

You wrote in response on 18 May requesting an Internal Review into the Department of Health's handling of your FOI request "Management statistics of NHS and Foundation Trusts". You explained that *"I remain concerned that whilst this information is very much a public concern, it appears " The Department does not validate data that will not be routinely made available to the public because this would place an unnecessary and costly burden on NHS organisations and the Department. This includes data on 'internal promotions' and I question why this information is not routinely made available to the public*

We have carefully considered your original request again.

The Department of Health does not validate data that will not be routinely made available to the public or used for internal work because this will place an unnecessary and costly burden on NHS organisations and the Department. The Department is committed to minimising the number of data collections from NHS organisations, in line with wider Government policy on 'reducing the burden'. There is a need to balance the benefits gained from publishing information, such as that you requested, against the costs of collecting and validating the information, which uses up resources that could otherwise be focused on improving services for patients.

The Review of Central Returns (ROCR) website provides information on this process (<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/the-review-of-central-returns-rocr>). ROCR outline that information should normally be collected for, i) accountability to Parliament, ii) performance management of the NHS, and iii) informing policy developments.

The Department is undertaking a project to review its information requirements and will certainly take your comments into account.

The Internal review of your correspondence is now complete.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

TONY DOOLE
Senior Casework Manager
Freedom of Information Team

