

06/02/2012

DE00000673831

Dear A Cuerden,

Thank you for your request of 21 January 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

- "1. The amount of money paid to the CNHC,*
- 2. What conditions are attached to the money (be specific)?*
- 3. Under what conditions will the money be stopped and the project considered a failure (if any)?*
- 4. Details of communications from politicians and, if possible, royalty, to the Department of Health related to the CNHC."*

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

**1)**

Since the CNHC was set up, the Department of Health has provided funding as follows:

£293,496 in 2007/8/9 (including start up costs)  
£409,300 in 2009/10  
£127,748 in 2010/11

**2)**

The Department funded the CNHC between 2007 until March 2011 and has been self-financing since 1 April 2011. There is therefore currently no funding to the CNHC to which conditions are attached.

**3)**

As stated above, funding from the Department of Health has now ceased.

The project to establish CNHC aimed to establish an independent body which would independently set standards for a range of complimentary therapies and establish a voluntary register of complimentary therapists meeting its standards.

**4)**

To comply with this request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12 allows public bodies to refuse requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. This is set at 3.5 working days or £600 for central Government. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

A preliminary search of our electronic filing system suggests that we hold more than 1600 documents which could potentially hold information sent to the Department from politicians relating to the CNHC. In particular, we hold the following files on our system:

- Complimentary and Natural Healthcare Council, 9 files containing 811 documents
- Foundation for Integrated Health, 7 files containing 639 documents
- CAM Therapies: Voluntary Registration, 1 file containing 203 documents

If you were to refine your request for information within more specific margins, for example, by a specific subject area or by time frame, then we may be able to continue processing your request. However, I cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to any information requested.

It may be useful in refining your request to know that communications between a public authority and the Royal household are exempt from disclosure under Section 37(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 37 is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to a public interest test.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
Room 317  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall,  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Email: [freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (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:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Scott

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Health

[freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)