



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Phil Booth
request-599161-a3ebd468@whatdotheyknow.com

20 September 2019

Dear Mr Booth,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1188168

Thank you for your request dated 23 August, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act. For the purposes of the Act, please take the date of your receipt of this request as 23 August 2019.

1) Please would you provide copies of any correspondence (emails, letters, phone calls, notes or other documents) during the period from 30 August 2017 to the date of this request between DHSC Ministers and Permanent Secretary, and officials of DHSC now in NHSx, and:

- a) Optum, Inc.*
- b) IQVIA (as now, previous names: Quintiles, IMS Health)*
- c) Apple*
- d) IBM (health)*

2) Please would you provide details of any meetings (dates, agendas, papers and minutes) during the period from 30 August 2017 to the date of this request between those in DHSC / NHSx listed in part (1) and:

- a) Optum, Inc.*
- b) IQVIA (as now, previous names: Quintiles, IMS Health)*
- c) Apple*
- d) IBM (health)*

3) Please would you confirm whether or not your response to this request also covers correspondence and meetings between NHS Digital officials and the named entities, since the formation of NHSx.

Please do not delay your response on the basis that you cannot provide some or any of the information for any one of the items or sub-items above; I am happy for you to provide partial information in a timely manner, on the understanding that you will provide more complete information as soon as it is available.

I would be grateful if you would send me the requested information promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt of my request.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, or if specific items within the responses are withheld from disclosure, then you must justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act, as per Section 17 of the Act. Where you rely on a qualified exemption to withhold disclosure, you are obliged to consider the public interest in your decision and the refusal notice must explain not

only which exemption applies and why, but also the public interest arguments addressed in reaching the decision.”

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

DHSC holds the information you have requested.

However, to comply with your request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the FOIA. Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600, which represents 3.5 working days. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending this time in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

It may help if I explain that the information you have requested is not held in a single filing system. In order to process your request, we would be required to search through a very large number of files and establish whether they held information relevant to your request, which we consider would exceed the Section 12 cost limit. The FOIA does not oblige us to search for information up to the Section 12 cost limit.

You may wish to refine your request for information by focusing on correspondence and meetings between one company and a particular minister, or the Permanent Secretary, or NHSX officials. However, we cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to a reframed request.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Der
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