15/05/2015

DE00000932514

Dear Mr Speight,

Thank you for your request of 16 April 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

“… I would also like to submit a new request for all internal communications relating to the handling of the initial request…”

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

Please find attached the internal communications related to the processing of your previous Freedom of Information request (Ref: DE00000927802) at Annex A.

Please note that some of this information is being withheld under Section 40(1) and Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, both of which provide for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information as doing so would contravene data protection principles.

Section 40(1) relates to data where the applicant is the data subject. Guidance from the Information Commissioner states that if the information constitutes the personal data of the requester, then it is exempt from disclosure. It goes on to advise that the request should be dealt with as a Subject Access Request (SAR) under the Data Protection Act 1998. Should you wish to submit a SAR, please do so through the “Contact DH” form on the Department’s website:


Please note that the only personal data in this release which has been redacted under Section 40(1) is your name.

Further information has been redacted under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, which provides for the protection of personal information of a third party. Under this principle it is our policy to redact the
names of all Departmental officials unless they are Senior Civil Servants or in a public facing role. In this case, we consider that if such information was released it could lead to the identification of individual junior members of staff.

We have also redacted information that did not relate to your Freedom of Information request.

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 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: 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,

Graham Sale

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

FreedomofInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk