



Department of Health

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
G18, Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Peter Reynolds
request-395319-ae10a868@whatdotheyknow.com

12 April 2017

Dear Mr Reynolds

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1078680

Thank you for your request dated 15 March 2017 in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

“Please provide copies of any documents relating to any advice requested by or provided to the Department of Health by the Chief Medical Officer or any other expert source on the use of cannabis as medicine within the past 12 months.”

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

The DH does not hold the information you requested.

To establish that the information is not held I spoke to policy officials in the office of the Chief Medical Officer and the Drugs Policy team who conducted searches of the manual and electronic records for the period of the request without finding any information within the scope of your request.

Outside of the FOIA and on a discretionary basis I can inform you that the Department of Health is aware of the recent inquiry report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Drug Policy Reform into medicinal cannabis (published in September 2016). This report is available at <http://www.drugpolicyreform.net/>

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,

Alan Buchan

Freedom of Information Officer
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