



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
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www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr Frank Church

[request-536746-
28330fa9@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:28330fa9@whatdotheyknow.com)

4 January 2019

Dear Mr Church

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1158984

Thank you for your request dated 4 December 2018 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Brexit preparations

I wish to see full copies of any documents that relate to the departments preparations for Brexit.

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. 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.

As currently framed, your question is extremely broad, and locating the information you have requested would require that several teams across DHSC search a substantial volume of documentation over an unspecified time period, which we have assessed would substantially exceed the section 12 cost limit.

If you were to refine your request to within more narrow margins by, for example, specifying a timeframe, and identifying a particular policy issue (or issues), then we may be able to process it. I cannot guarantee, however, that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to a re-framed 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,

Dorothy Crowe

Freedom of Information Officer

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