



# 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](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Mr John Lubbock  
[request-711482-5823416b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-711482-5823416b@whatdotheyknow.com)

3 March 2021

Dear Mr Lubbock,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1280411**

Thank you for your request dated 7 December 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,*

*I have been closely following the government's procurement practices following the introduction of emergency measures on 18 March in response to the pandemic. I have recently seen two contracts with INNOVA MEDICAL GROUP INC,*

- 1) £496 million, contract start 6 October,  
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b56141cb-2216-4c36-a661-230c118d868e?origin=SearchResultsp=1>*
- 2) £104 million, contract start 17 September,  
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/ca07d68e-8f93-4864-9c4b-f24f1e117162?origin=SearchResultsp=1>*

*When researching this company, I came across a post on Evaluate.com which read Across the pond, it has emerged that a rapid antigen test bought in large numbers by the UK government cannot be used as intended. The Sars-Cov-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test is, according to its instructions for use, only suitable for use in patients with Covid-19 symptoms. The UK government bought 20 million of these tests in October with the intention of using them to screen asymptomatic people.*

*Link: <https://www.evaluate.com/vantage/articles/news/snippets/us-covid-19-test-authorisations-slow-uk-runs-trouble>*

*I would therefore like to know whether either of the above mentioned contracts are for test kits which cannot be used for their intended purpose. If the answer is yes, can the Department of Health tell me how many test kits it has purchased from Innova Medical Group which cannot be used, and what it intends to do with these unusable supplies. ”*

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

DHSC has the information you have requested. Lateral Flow Tests are solely used for asymptomatic testing, and as such all of the tests purchased are being used for their intended purpose.

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's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO 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 SK9 5AF

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

Yours sincerely,

Ed Franklyn  
Freedom of Information Officer  
E [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)