



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-555189-e58899b8@whatdotheyknow.com

15 April 2019

Dear Mr Booth,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1170796

Thank you for your request dated 18 March, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

Thank you for requesting clarification, and I hope this proves helpful.

You said:

1) can you clarify if you mean all organisations who provided official responses to the consultation via email?

It is common practice for a Government/NHS response to a consultation to include a list of organisations who responded to the consultation - it is that list we request (even if it was not by email, although we would expect that the majority of submissions were by email).

In case it is helpful to have an example of what we were requesting under this point, please see Appendix 1 of this NHS England consultation response (which simply happens to be the current top hit in google for relevant search terms):

https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/gender-identity-services-for-adults/user_uploads/report-independent-analysis-consultation-responses-gender-identity-service-specifications.pdf

2) may you clarify if you require all written submissions from organisations?

Yes.

For an excess of clarity, should a consultation response have been received by telephone or in a personal meeting have been considered received by the consultation, the organisation would be covered under part (1) but not included (2) (unless they provided a written submission as well).

We did not mean to include, for example, civil servants notes of meetings, requesting only material written by respondents which could entirely reasonably be expected to be in the public domain due to it being a response to a consultation by DHSC.

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

I can confirm that DHSC holds some of the information you requested. Please see attached.

DHSC had 16 people respond on behalf of an organisation, 10 which were Tech suppliers, 1 charity, 1 NHS trust, 1 healthcare software provider, 1 social impact business, 1 industry and 1 which described itself as software developers and business consultancy.

DHSC did not ask for individuals to provide the name of the organisation on whose behalf they were responding so we cannot provide information on organisations that have responded. However, we can provide the anonymised responses (with names and email addresses removed).

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 communication.

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 SK9 5AF

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

Yours sincerely,

Maria Reed
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