



# 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 Stephen Adamson

By email to: [request-878683-815f9e60@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-878683-815f9e60@whatdotheyknow.com)

11 August 2022

Dear Mr Adamson,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1412148**

Thank you for your request dated 15 July to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC does not hold the information you have requested.

However, outside of the scope of the FOIA, you may be interested in the following information.

It is possible to follow the scientific evidence on asymptomatic transmission by reading the SAGE (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies) papers and minutes, which are published at the following link: [Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk), and the meeting minutes of NERVTAG (New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group), which are available here on the GOV.UK website: [New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).

You may also be interested in the judgement in *Gardner & Harris v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*, which included considerable discussion of the evidence around asymptomatic transmission, and which is published here: [Gardner & Harris -v- Secretary of State for Health and Social Care \(judiciary.uk\)](http://judiciary.uk).

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 sent to [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk) or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date 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'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.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team

[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

**Annex**

*From: Stephen Adamson <request-878683-815f9e60@whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: 15 July 2022 00:10  
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Asymptomatic transmission*

*Dear Department of Health and Social Care,*

*Hancock stated that there was a formal finding of asymptomatic transmission from April 2020 at around 7min20 on this video*

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fodysee.com%2F%40subjectaccess%3A9%2Fmatt-hancock-challenged-by-heiko-khoo%3A8&data=05%7C01%7Cdhmail%40dhsc.gov.uk%7C24241d9c342d40d5ae1708da66459d54%7C61278c3091a84c318c1fef4de8973a1c%7C1%7C0%7C637934746411983671%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cdu8NT6SsDaDrcKtlkwswNZOdHH8kfq6Ypfx7sMM1DU%3D&reserved=0>

*Please send me the recorded information as to what this formal finding was.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Stephen Adamson*