



Department
of Health

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

www.gov.uk

A.E

request-433337-c006b537@whatdotheyknow.com

16 October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1098994

Thank you for your request dated 22 September in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

*"Dear Department of Health,
in the Think Autism strategy update document
(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299866/Autism_Strategy.pdf) the DoH states:
8.6 DH will work with NHS England and with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) through their autism clinical priority programme which runs from April 2014 to 2017 to look at the feasibility of introducing a Read Code for Autism.
Can you confirm if this feasibility study has been completed, what the outcome was and what the Read Code for autism spectrum disorder is that GPs should use, if one has been formulated. If there are any documents detailing discussion of this matter please link me to them. "*

Please note, under section 8(1) of FOIA, a request for information must comply with three requirements. It must:

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) state the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and
- (c) describes the information requested.

After initial consideration, this request appears to comply with requirements (a) and (c) but it does not comply with requirement (b) because you have not provided your full name. As your request is not valid under FOIA, I am not obliged to process your request. I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that any future FOI submissions adhere to Section 8 of the FOIA.

To enable us to meet your request, please resubmit your application including your real name. This should normally include your first name or a title (e.g. Miss or Dr) as well as your surname.

We will consider your resubmitted request upon receipt as long as it meets the requirements stated above. You will then receive a response from us within the statutory timescale of 20 working days. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

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 faithfully,

Edward Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer
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