



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

Ms Sarah Louise Barbera

By email to: request-1027314-a01a1d79@whatdotheyknow.com

6 October 2023

Dear Ms Barbera,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1469888

Thank you for your request dated 14 September 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) and we will address each of the matters you raise in turn.

Does your department have a behavioural science/insight team?

DHSC holds the information you have requested. DHSC does have a Behavioural Science Team.

If yes, how many members are in that team, and what is the annual cost?

DHSC holds the information you have requested.

However, where a number of individuals is fewer than or equal to five, we are unable to disclose the exact number of cases under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which relates to personal information of third parties.

We consider that the disclosure of this information could breach an individual's confidentiality, as there is a risk that individuals may be identified if this data is put together with other information that is, or may become, available on that individual. We believe that this could cause unnecessary or unjustified distress or damage to the individual in question and would therefore contravene the principles of 'fairness' as defined by the Data Protection Act.

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 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

Annex

From: Sarah Louise Barbera <request-1027314-a01a1d79@whatdotheyknow.com>
Sent: 14 September 2023 23:00
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Behavioural Science/Insight Team

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

- a) Does your department have a behavioural science/insight team?
- b) If yes, how many members are in that team, and what is the annual cost?

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Louise Barbera

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
request-1027314-a01a1d79@whatdotheyknow.com