



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 Amanda Hart
request-731001-6484776a@whatdotheyknow.com

24 May 2021

Dear Ms Hart,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1308888

Thank you for your request dated 23 February in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

*Background: In April 2020 it was widely reported that some NHS nurses had to wear bin bags due to a lack of PPE and some of them caught Covid-19
(Public ref) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-nurses-bin-bags-ppe-shortage-positive-covid-19-symptoms-a9457231.html>*

*Also in April 2020 the chief coroner for England and Wales, Mark Lucraft QC, asked coroners not to look at PPE shortages when considering the deaths of NHS staff.
(Public ref:) <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/29/inquests-nhs-staff-deaths-ppe-shortages>*

*Fol request: If it exists, please kindly supply the evidence held by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to support his claim on 23rd February 2021 that there was no PPE shortage.
(Public ref) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/23/hancock-criticised-for-claim-there-was-no-national-covid-ppe-shortage> "*

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

The DHSC does not hold the information you requested.

However, you may wish to contact NHS England, which may hold information relevant to your request. The contact details are: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi>

Outside of the Act and at our discretion you may find information in paragraph 18 of the National Audit Office report useful. The link is below;

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The-supply-of-personal-protective-equipment-PPE-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf>

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