



# 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)

Lexi  
[Request-644658-854e56c5@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:Request-644658-854e56c5@whatdotheyknow.com)

5 March 2020

Dear Lexi,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1204052**

Thank you for your request dated 7 February, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*"I understand that the Department of Health funded the recent public consultation on Proposed Surrogacy Law via the Law Commission.*

*Please can you confirm:*

*What were the instigating factors for decision makers to commission this work?  
How much funding was given to the Law Commission in order for them to carry out this work?  
As this work is ongoing, please can you provide the figures to date, or the recent budget submission."*

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

However, please note that, 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) describe 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 full 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 this letter and sent to [FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk), or to the address at the top 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.

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 sincerely,

Jane Spencer  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk)